ACROSS / A17

Truck rams vehicles; 17 dead, 14 hurt

SPORTS / A32

Red Auerbach, legendary Celtics coach, dies

WORLD / A28

Global warming could turn 200M people into refugees, says ex-World Bank official

Boy Scouts group now accepting girls

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

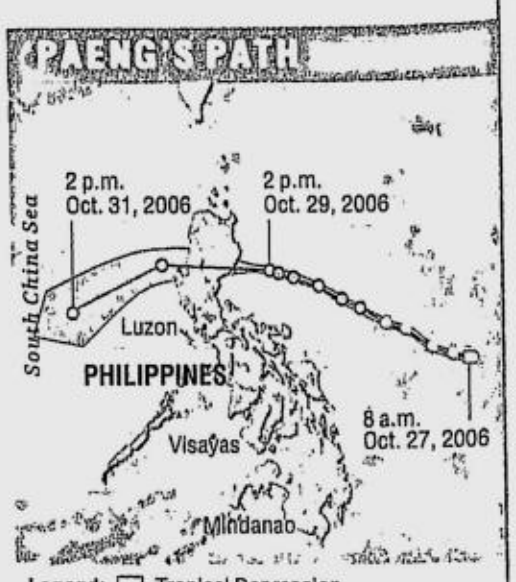
CEBU CITY—GIRLS AS boy scouts?

This is not a joke. The Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP) is now ac-

BOY SCOUTS/ A8

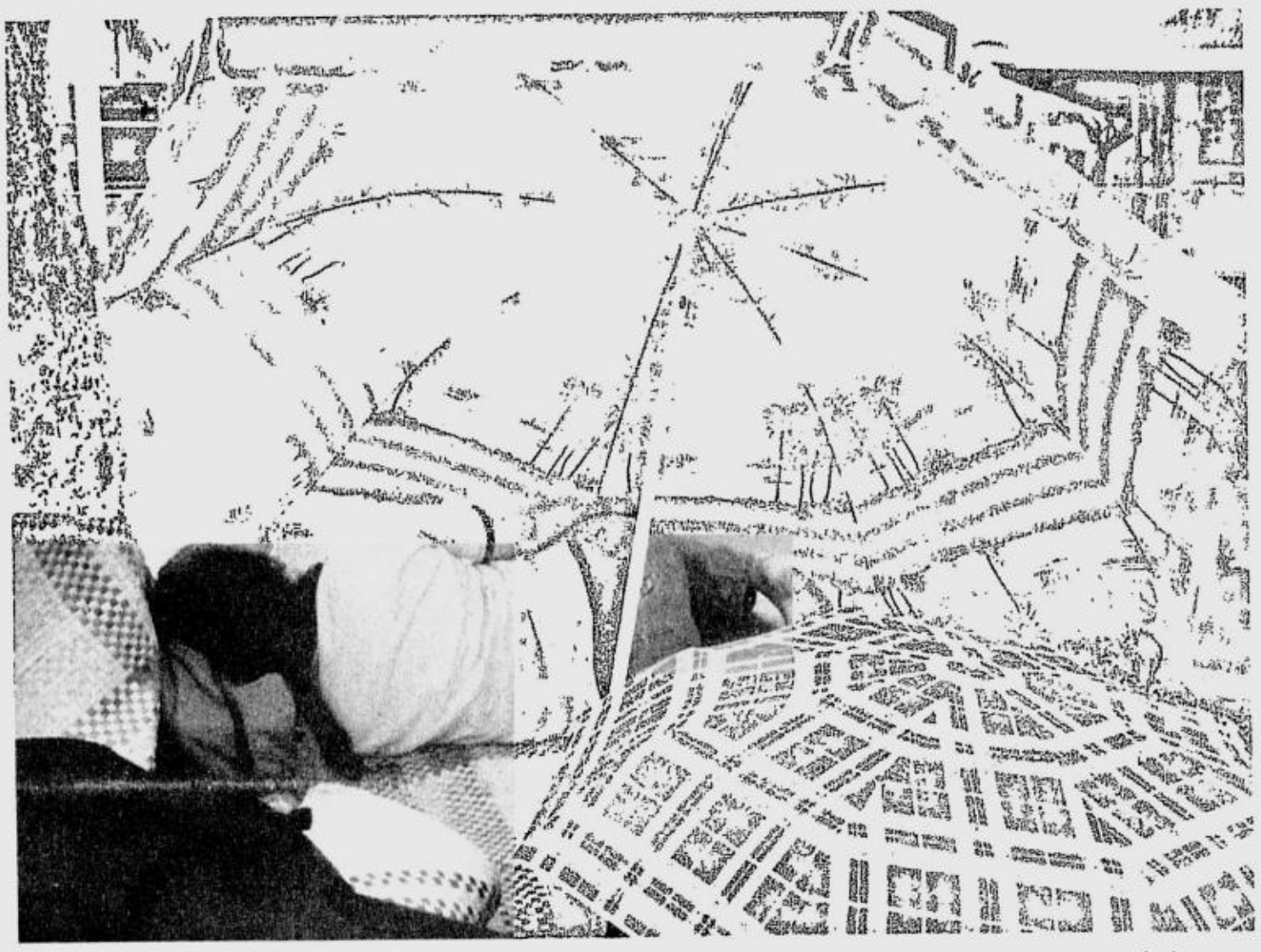
PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, October 30, 2006 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 324 P18 website: www.inq7.net



Supertyphoon slams RP

All Saints' Day trekkers advised not to head for northern Luzon



IT has become a long journey into the night for this woman, along with hundreds of Catanduanes-bound boat passengers who have to wait for the lowering of typhoon signals at the port of Tabaco City in Albay.

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Blanche S. Rivera and Alcuin Papa

PRAY AND HEED EVACUATION instructions.

From China where she is on an official visit, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday made this appeal to residents of northern Luzon hit by a supertyphoon.

Supertyphoon "Paeng" (international code name: Cimaron, meaning wild or unruly) had strengthened as it approached the Philippines.

Packing sustained winds of 195 kilometers per hour with gusts of up to 230 kph, Paeng made landfall in the southern part of Isabela province at about 9 last night, according to the weather bureau.

Also last night, the President approved the recommendation of the Cabinet to ban travel to provinces under public storm Signals 3 and 4. Signal No. 4 is the highest level for a weather disturbance.

The weather bureau earlier raised Signal No. 4 over Isabela, southern Cagayan, Quirino and northern Aurora. Signal No. 3 was hoisted over the rest of Aurora and Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, Ifugao, Mt. Province, Pangasinan, Benguet, La Union, Abra, Ilocos Sur, Apayao and Kalinga.

The President also approved the suspension of classes and work in government offices in those areas.

SUPERTYPHOON/ A4

US bishops draft rules on gay ministry

ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS IN the United States have drafted new guidelines for their ministry to gay people that affirm Church teachings against same-sex relationships, marriages and adoption by gay couples, yet encourage parishes to reach out to gay Catholics who feel alienated by their Church.

The bishops' document, the result of a four-year effort, gives specific instructions on some of the conundrums now faced by many parishes.

The guidelines recommend baptizing the adopted children of same-sex couples, as long as the children will be raised as Catholics.

Under the draft guidelines, gay people may benefit from revealing their "tendencies" to friends, family and their priest, but they should not make "general public

US BISHOPS/ A4

Gloria vows to crush Reds within 3 years

By Christine O. Avendaño

GUILIN CITY—ON THE THIRD DAY OF her visit to China, President Macapagal Arroyo said she hoped to "break the back" of the communist insurgency in the Philippines by the end of her term in 2010.

The President made the statement yesterday in an interview during a four-hour boat ride on the scenic Lijiang River, which was arranged by local officials in Guilin.

"For the rest of my term, I hope I would be able to break the back of the insurgency and that we can have peace and stability," she said when asked what she intended to achieve in the last three years of her term.

Ms Arroyo, who is on a five-day visit to China to seek investments for the Philip-

GLORIA VOWS/ A6

GMA aide confirms Cabinet split but no revamp

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

A TOP MALACAÑANG OFFICIAL YESTERday confirmed the ill-starred people's initiative had divided President Macapagal-Arroyo's inner circle but said there would be no bloodbath in the Cabinet.

"Regardless of differences of opinion, I doubt very much if anybody within the Cabinet would move for the ouster of a colleague because of what happened to PI (people's initiative)," the President's political adviser, Gabriel Claudio, said.

He was referring to reports that some Cabinet secretaries were after the head of Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., who had opposed the signature collection campaign to rewrite the Constitution.

"I don't believe changes in the Cabinet in the aftermath of the SC (Supreme Court) decision are forthcoming," Claudio said.

But he conceded that "that judgment is completely up to the President."

Claudio made the statement amid speculation that a Cabinet revamp was in the offing following the Supreme Court's 8-7 ruling last week rejecting the people's initiative petition of Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) and describing it as fraudulent and deceptive.

Cruz had been reported to have said that at least three fellow Cabinet members were pushing for his ouster for his opposition to the people's initiative and for his ties to a prominent law firm that was also supposedly against it.

Cruz was a founder of Carpio, Villaraza & Cruz (now known as Villaraza & Angangco), which has been dubbed "The Firm" because of its close association with the President and her husband.

GMA AIDE/ A10

SC justices subordinate private gratitude to public interest

By Amando Doronila

THE VEHEMENCE OF THE SUPREME Court decision in dismissing the petition for a people's initiative to change the 1987 Constitution has arrested public attention more than the incisive arguments, either way, that produced the ruling.

Few Supreme Court decisions in recent years have been expressed with stronger words and with more passion than the declaration that "an initiative that gathers signatures from the people without first showing to the people the full text of the proposed amendments is most likely a deception, and can operate as a gigantic fraud on the people."

ANALYSIS

The declaration stunned the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who had pushed for the initiative, and appalled some lawyers for its harsh language.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, not a stranger to intemperate rhetoric, noted the "extremely strong and condemnatory language" of the decision, and some lawyers called it "vicious."

The strong reactions to the decision were symptomatic of the highly charged political atmosphere surrounding the issue of constitutional change and of the deep divisions it had opened across the nation.

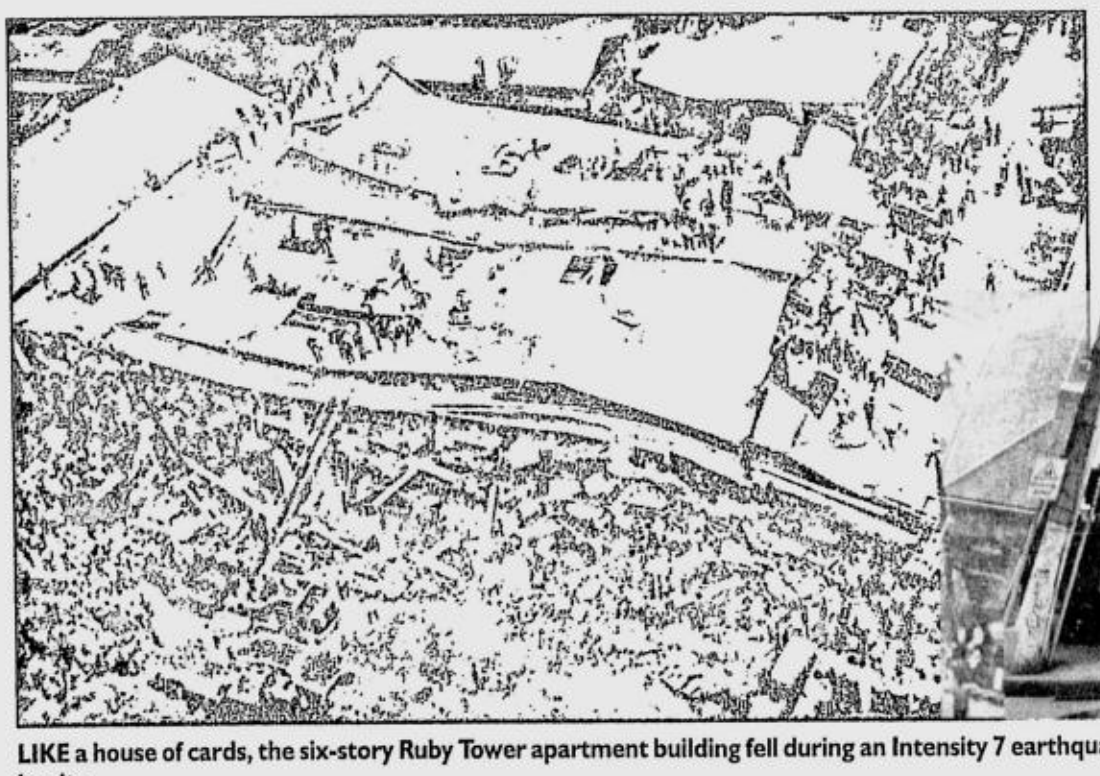
The divisions and alignments were clearly shown in the list of intervenors and oppositors to the petition submitted by the Lambino group.

The list embraced the broad spectrum of political and civil society forces that had spearheaded the campaign to oust Ms Arroyo and had waged it in the streets and in Congress in the impeachment complaint against the President.

In that sense, the people's initiative petition became the issue through which

SC JUSTICES/ A10

Ruby Tower earthquake survivors visit hallowed ground



LIKE a house of cards, the six-story Ruby Tower apartment building fell during an Intensity 7 earthquake on Aug. 2, 1968, killing 342 tenants. A two-story structure now stands on its site.

MIRROR PHOTO BY MANUEL SILVA/EDWIN BACASMAS

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO, THE six-story Ruby Tower apartment-building on Doroteo Jose and Teodora Alonzo streets in Sta. Cruz, Manila, collapsed "like a house of cards" during an Intensity 7 earthquake.

On that "Black Friday," 342 of the building's more than 600 tenants lost their lives.

Some 270 badly injured survivors were extricated from the rubble during rescue efforts that lasted more than a week and involved at least 6,000 volunteers. Twenty-seven among the injured

RUBY/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will have stormy weather which may trigger landslides, flashfloods and big waves along the coasts. Southern Luzon will have rains and occasional gusty winds. Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/29/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Stormy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Stormy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Stormy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

NO SURPRISE HERE

SWS: Millions bitten by pool bug

BILLIARDS, OR POOL, THE GAME PREVIOUSLY associated with the seamier side of society and which mothers used to warn their kids about, has now caromed into mainstream acceptability that a pool tournament to be held in Manila next week is expected to attract a Filipino television audience numbering in the tens of millions.

The conclusion was drawn from a survey by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) which indicated that more than one in two adult Filipinos are likely to watch the 2006 World Pool Championship (WPC) on television when it is staged from Nov. 4 to 12. *(See related story in Sports, Page A29)*

Translated to actual numbers, this means that about 29 million Filipino adults and even more uncountable numbers of youth would be watching the WPC, according to the Third Quarter 2006 Social Weather Survey.

The WPC will be televised from the Philippine International Convention Center for several hours daily.

Its lure stems in large part from the fact that previous champions of the prize-rich contest included local pool wizards Efren "Bata" Reyes, who topped the event in 1999 when it was first televised worldwide, and Filipino-Canadian Alex Pagulayan, who was tops in 2004. Millions of Filipinos' hearts were broken when another hero, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, let the crown slip when it was within his grasp in another year.

The SWS survey found that nine percent watch "always," nine percent watch "often," and 38 percent watch "sometimes"—a total 56 percent of adult Filipinos—whenever they find billiards on TV. This figure is an increase of five percentage points from the 51 percent registered in a similar survey conducted in August last year.

Billiards is more popular among men, who make up 18.7 million (73 percent) of those who watch the sport. Of those who watch billiards on TV, 17.7 million are from "class D," or people from the great mass of Filipinos.

The survey also found that "enthusiasm for playing the sport is high," SWS said in a statement. Among men, 17 percent said they had played billiards within the previous month—higher than last year's 15 percent.

Enthusiasm is also steady across all socioeconomic classes, with 13 percent among classes ABC, eight percent among class D and 10 percent among class E. Those surveyed said they had played the game within the last 30 days.

The survey was conducted using face-to-face interviews of a national sample of 1,200 representative households in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. It had a margin of error of plus-minus three percentage points.

The survey was conducted pro bono by SWS for the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines, the national sports association which helped bring the 2006 WPC to Manila. The head of SWS, Mahar Mangahas, is known to be a billiards enthusiast.

The WPC is widely considered as the most prestigious international 9-ball tournament. It is expected to draw 128 players from at least 42 countries. Among the 116 pre-qualified players are 13 Filipino pool players. The 12 remaining slots will go to winners of a qualifying tournament to be held from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1, involving 110 more aspirants, 35 of them Filipinos, from 21 countries. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

Report says Guimaras folk still reeling from oil spill

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

JORDAN, GUIMARAS—RESIDENTS of Guimaras are reeling from unemployment and loss of income after the oil spill in August took away their livelihood and devastated the local economy, according to a multi-agency report that assessed the impact of the disaster.

The worst hit were the residents of coastline villages engaged in fishing, gleaning (collecting fish on intertidal flats and reefs at low tide), beach resort operations, motorized banca operations, and salt-making and agriculture, said the 126-page report released on Oct. 26 by the Guimaras provincial government.

More than half, or 52 of the 98 barangays in the province, were directly affected by the oil spill and had oil sludges near their shores or in their coastal waters. The remaining 46 barangays were indirectly affected.

The report said 69,162 individuals, or 46 percent of the province's population of 151,194, were directly affected by the oil spill.

The towns of Nueva Valencia, Sibunag and San Lorenzo were heavily affected, while Jordan and Buenavista were less affected by the oil spill, although they also "felt the impact of the loss of market confidence on fishery products caught in Guimaras waters."

The report said 2,439 fishermen who previously earned an average of P239 to P300 per day were displaced due to the effects of the oil spill on their fish catch, seaweed and milk fish production.

Some resorted to harvesting rice, a temporary alternative, while others remained jobless. Some were hired by Petron Corp. in the cleanup operation.

Majority of the fish traders stopped their operations and laid off their workers since they did not have enough fish catch and could no longer service their customers. The average daily sales for fish traders who continued their operations declined to P300 from P5,450.

The drop in fish catch and the fear of eating fish caught in the waters of Guimaras resulted in an increase in the number of animals slaughtered for consumption, the report said.

At least 105 mostly small businesses and 290 employees were affected in the towns of Nueva Valencia, Sibunag and San Lorenzo.

Sales of stores and eateries in the affected barangays and the income of those employed in these businesses also dropped because of the disaster, the report said.

Daily sales of variety (*sari-sari*) stores dropped by 38 percent to P569 from P902.78. They also cut the number of their workers by 11 percent. Those employed in these stores reported a drop in their average monthly incomes by 36 percent.

Operators of eateries had a 39-percent drop in average daily sales and reduced their average number of workers by 8.33 percent. The report said some eateries were able to maintain or increase their sales due to the presence of Petron workers engaged in the cleanup.

The team made some recommendations:

- Identify alternative livelihoods, including livestock production, backyard farming, handicraft-making and soap making.
- Train and offer workshops to residents to enhance their knowledge and skills.
- Offer financial assistance to affected communities.
- Review the provincial agritourism master plan to identify alternative tourism promotion strategies.

3 foreign firms submit bids to siphon bunker oil

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE INTERNATIONAL Oil Pollution Compensation Fund will deliberate next week on the proposals of three foreign contractors to siphon the remaining bunker fuel oil still in the holds of the sunken MT Solar I off the coast of Guimaras island.

Presidential Adviser for Western Visayas Rafael Coscolluela said the three companies that submitted bids to remove the oil from the Solar I were Norwegian, Japanese and British firms that had equipment based in Singapore.

He said the IOPC did not want to disclose just yet the names of the bidders.

The IOPC provides compensation for oil pollution damage caused by oil spills worldwide.

Coscolluela led the Philippine team that pushed for the funding to siphon the oil during the IOPC assembly and executive committee meeting in London on Monday.

The IOPC approved the funding for the removal of the oil, which is estimated to cost between $8 million and $10 million, Coscolluela said.

He said the IOPC executive committee will deliberate on the proposals of the three firms next week, choose one and sign a contract.

The detailed works program and mobilization will be completed by December and actual siphoning work will start in January, he said.

The MT Solar I sank on Aug. 11 off the coast of Guimaras while transporting 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel owned by Petron Corp. This resulted in a massive oil spill that affected the coasts of Guimaras and Iloilo in what is considered the worst oil spill to hit the country.

The Philippine Coast Guard has estimated that 250,000 to 300,000 liters have been spilled into the sea. Most of the fuel has remained in the sunken vessel in sealed barrels although the Coast Guard noted there was still a slight leak coming from the Solar I.

Coscolluela said his team pointed out to the IOPC the need to siphon the oil because of the high frequency of seismic activity in the area which is on a fault line, the close proximity of the shorelines and the active fishing area affected.

It was also pointed out that the MT Solar I spill could affect an environmentally sensitive area, he said.

Coscolluela said the IOPC promised to give priority to the claims of some 4,000 fishermen who were displaced by the massive oil spill.

Also being processed are the claims of affected resort and fishpond owners, he said.

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Justice faced dictatorship, says senator

JUSTICE CONSUELO YNARES-SANTIAGO's "swing vote" in the Supreme Court's recent decision junking the petition for a people's initiative to change the Constitution may have surprised some of her colleagues, but not Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Unknown to many, Santiago had shown early in her career as a judge that she could neither be cowed nor pressured even by the fiercest of enemies, President Ferdinand Marcos, Arroyo said in a statement.

"If she did not yield to Marcos, how much more now?" he said.

As a Makati municipal judge, Santiago presided over the celebrated case filed by the Commission on Elections against then education secretary, Dr. Alejandro Roces, for allegedly violating a decree on compulsory voting in the early '80s.

After three hearings, she acquitted Roces.

"Early on, during the darkest days of martial law, the days of living dangerously, Justice Ynares, with dignity and aplomb, showed the sterling qualities of moral courage and stood against the formidable pressure of the dictatorship," Arroyo said. "She refused to be conscripted as an enabler of the dictator."

Arroyo, along with lawyers Rene Saguisag and Jejomar Binay, argued the case for Roces.

Santiago voted along with seven justices, including Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, to dismiss the people's initiative petition filed by the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines and Sigaw ng Bayan on the grounds that it failed to comply with constitutional requirements. *TJ Burgonio*

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defiance

Supertyphoon 'Paeng' whips Philippines

From page A1

Ms Arroyo conveyed her approval in a second phone patch exchange from China with officials of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) at around 7:30 last night.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III informed the President that the Department of the Interior and Local Government had instructed the Philippine National Police to prevent travelers from proceeding to the provinces affected by the typhoon.

Those going to the provinces for All Saints' Day will be allowed no farther than Tarlac to the north and San Jose, Nueva Ecija, to the east, Duque said.

"Generally, no travel beyond these areas at this point in time. It's best to go back to their points of origin or wait it out wherever they are," he said.

Chief Supt. Errol Pan, chief of the PNP's Traffic Management Group, said he had ordered all TMG regional units to set up checkpoints and stop all bus trips to destinations in northern Luzon and the Cagayan Valley.

In her first phone call to disaster response officials, Ms Arroyo asked those making the annual All Saints' Day trek to postpone travel to the provinces in the direct path of Paeng to avoid casualties.

"Don't venture out if there is no need for that. Let's follow the order of our officials and let us all pray," the President said in a message broadcast over nationwide radio.

All Saints' Day is a public holiday when millions troop to cemeteries to remember their dead. Some travel days in advance to provinces to pay homage to their dead.

Paeng, the 16th typhoon to hit the country this year, is stronger than "Milenyo" that devastated Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon last month. Milenyo (international code name: Xangsane) left more than 230 people dead and missing, and hundreds of thousands homeless.

Many parts of Luzon are still rebuilding after Milenyo cut a swath of destruction.

Moving west-northwest at 19 kph, the eye of Paeng was located 120 km east of Casiguran, Aurora, or 210 km southeast of Tuguegarao, Cagayan, at 5 p.m. yesterday.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Paeng would cut across northern Luzon, bringing strong winds and heavy rains, before blowing out to the South China Sea on Tuesday.

A power blackout hit Isabela at about 6 p.m. Two hours later, strong winds began buffeting the province, accompanied by bursts of rain.

In Cagayan Valley, roads remained open, including the landslide-prone Dalton Pass, as of late last night, police said.

"Paeng is a supertyphoon. It is category 5 in the United States, so it's really necessary for the people to be informed about this," Science Undersecretary Garciano Yumul told the President in the phone patch.

Officials ordered residents to abandon vulnerable coastal and mountainside areas and evacuate to safer shelter.

Anthony Golez, NDCC director, told the public to heed the President, saying that people from Metro Manila should let Paeng pass before heading out to the provinces.

"Visiting our dead is part of our culture, but this is not an ordinary typhoon," he warned. "People could figure in many accidents if they don't listen."

Even after Paeng leaves, flooding and other "secondary hazards" could pose a danger to the public, according to Golez.

Flash floods, landslides

Signal No. 2 was raised over the Calayan group of islands, Ilocos Norte, northern Zambales, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, northern Bulacan, northern Quezon and Polillo Island. Signal No. 1 remained over the rest of Zambales, Bulacan, Quezon, Pampanga, Rizal and Camarines Norte.

Residents in areas under typhoon signals were alerted against possible flash floods and landslides, while those living along the eastern coast of Luzon were advised to be alert for storm surges or big waves.

Paeng, which entered the Philippine area of responsibility on Friday, gained strength as it passed over the Pacific Ocean, developing into a supertyphoon with a large eye circulation of about 300 km in the span of only three days.

"(Paeng) continues to gain strength and poses extreme danger to northern Luzon. All residents ... in the eastern coast of Cagayan and Isabela, including Aurora as well as the inland province of Quirino, are strongly advised to take appropriate safety measures," Pagasa said in a statement.

"Those residing near rivers and mountains are also advised to take extreme precaution against possible flash floods and landslides," it said.

Weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz said that unlike Milenyo, Paeng was not expected to cause massive damage as the structures and population of Isabela, which will be directly hit, were smaller.

"Milenyo passed through several areas, that's why it caused so much damage, but Paeng will hit northern Luzon where there is a smaller population and structures. So we're hoping that while it is stronger, it would cause less damage," Cruz said in an interview.

Cruz said Paeng also would not linger in the country for long and should be over the sea by tomorrow afternoon.

The supertyphoon is expected to exit over the Ilocos Sur-Pangasinan area by Tuesday afternoon, but the rains will continue over the western side of the country.

Paeng is the first supertyphoon to hit the Philippines in three years, according to Pagasa. The last supertyphoon to enter the country was "Harurot" in 2003. Before that, there were "Loleng" in 1998 and "Rosing" in 1985.

Typhoon Signal No. 4 means that winds are swirling at 185 kph or more, Pagasa said.

- Coconut and other large trees are expected to be uprooted.
- Rice and corn plantations may incur severe losses.
- Residential and institutional buildings made of mixed concrete material may be severely damaged.
- Power distribution facilities and communication services could be severely disrupted and damaged.
- Overall, affected communities could incur very heavy damage. *With reports from Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Ephraim Aguilar and Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon, and AP*

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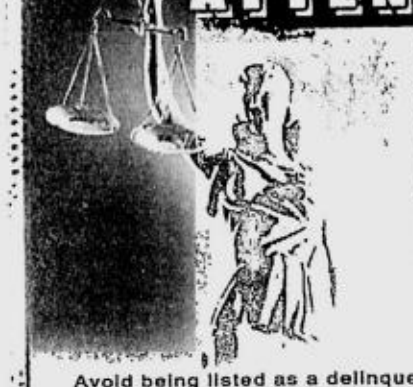

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Date	Credit Units/Subject Per Bar Matter 850	Lecturer
☐ Nov. 11 a.m.	2/ MCLE Prescribed Subjects: Forensic Evidence: DNA and Its Analysis 2/ Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Dra. Raquel Del Rosario-Fortun
☐ Nov. 11 p.m.	2/ Trial and Pre-Trial Skills 3/ Alternative Dispute Resolution	Justice Magdangal M. De Leon Justice Ediberto G. Sandoval
☐ Nov. 18 a.m.	2/ Legal Ethics 2/ Trial and Pre-Trial Skills	Dean Cutodio O. Parlade Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.
☐ Nov. 18 p.m.	3/ Updates in Constitutional Law 2/ MCLE Prescribed Subjects: Technology and the Law	DCA Zenaida N. Elepaño Prof. H. Harry L. Roque, Jr. Atty. Ivan John E. Uy
☐ Nov. 25 a.m.	2/ Alternative Dispute Resolution 2/ MCLE Prescribed Subjects: Recent Jurisprudence in Family Law Cases	Dean Froilan M. Bacungan Prof. Melencio S. Sta. Maria
☐ Nov. 25 p.m.	2/ Legal Ethics 3/ Updates in Substantive & Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence: SRC & Corporate Governance	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino SEC Director Justina F. Callangan
☐ Dec. 02 a.m.	2/ Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy 2/ Legal Ethics	Justice Ruben T. Reyes Justice Hector L. Hofileña
☐ Dec. 02 p.m.	2/ International Law 3/ Updates in Criminal Law	Prof. H. Harry L. Roque, Jr. Justice Diosdado M. Peralta

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U.S bishops ...

From page A1

announcements" about it in the parish.

The guidelines also say that gay men and lesbians have "no moral obligation to attempt" therapy, an apparent reference to therapy programs that claim to change gay people's sexual orientation.

The explanation: While "some have found therapy helpful," there is "no scientific consensus" either on therapy or the causes of homosexuality.

The bishops will vote on the document—"Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care"—when the US Conference of Catholic Bishops meets on Nov. 13-16 in Baltimore. The document, which could be amended, needs a two-thirds majority to pass.

Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, New Jersey, the chair of the bishops doctrine committee that wrote the new guidelines, acknowledged it was difficult to predict whether the document would pass but voiced optimism it would.

"It's a very sound document, a very clear document. My sense is that the bishops will readily embrace it," Serratelli said.

Gays doubtful

Gay Catholic leaders who had read the draft, however, predicted that it would only further alienate gays and their families from the Church.

"There certainly is some lovely language that sounds welcoming in here," said Sam Sinnett, president of DignityUSA, an organization for gay Catholics.

"But essentially, they're repeating all the spiritually violent things they've been saying about gay and lesbian Catholics for a couple of decades—that we are 'objectively disordered' and our relationships are intrinsically evil," Sinnett added.

The new document puts more emphasis on the Church's moral teaching about sexuality. It says that although having a "homosexual inclination" is not itself a sin, homosexual sex is a sin—as are premarital sex and adultery. The answer in all these situations is chastity.

The document says that although the Church teaches that homosexuality is "objectively disordered"—a teaching in the catechism that says homosexual acts violate the natural law—the Church is not saying that homosexual people themselves are disordered or "rendered morally defective by this inclination."

Such distinctions will provide little comfort to gay Catholics, according to Francis DeBernardo, executive director of the New Ways Ministry, a gay outreach group for Catholics based in Maryland. *New York Times News Service*

Correction

IN THE OCT. 28 ISSUE, a front-page story—"US poll computers can be hacked, experts show"—misstated the American university where computer science professor Avi Rubin teaches. Rubin teaches at Johns—not John—Hopkins University.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 30, 2006
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 4:32-5:8
Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath and a crippled woman was there. An evil spirit had kept her bent for 18 years so that she could not straighten up at all. On seeing her, Jesus called her and said, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." Then he laid his hands upon her and immediately she was made straight and praised God.

But the ruler of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had performed this healing on the Sabbath day and he said to the people, "There are six days in which to work; come on those days to be healed and not on the Sabbath."

But the Lord replied, "You hypocrites! Everyone of you unties his ox or his donkey on the Sabbath and leads it out of the barn to give it water. And here you have a daughter of Abraham whom Satan had bound for 18 years. Should she not be freed from her bonds on the Sabbath?"

When Jesus said this, all his opponents felt ashamed. But the people rejoiced at the many wonders that happened through him.

Commentary

Be friends! Forgive, imitate God and be a sacrifice on behalf of others as God has been for us in Jesus. Our lives are to be pure, single-hearted, faithful in our relationships, our sexuality, so that everything we do is suffused with light! Be what we proclaim we are: the children God loves.

A woman unnoticed by all is healed by Jesus' word (on a Sabbath—it is truly worship of the God of freedom and holiness). But others are incensed, interpreting it as breaking the law to help someone! Jesus is furious: we break laws for our own convenience but not to set others free and relieve distress. We do not worship God this way. She is a faithful and true daughter of Abraham, faithful in suffering/isolation—which side of the sanctuary do we find ourselves in today?

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PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo adjusts her reading glasses as she speaks before students of Nanchang University in Jiangxi, China. PCPO-MALACAÑANG PHOTO

China, Asean open talks today on free trade zone

NANNING, CHINA—CHINESE AND ASEAN leaders open a summit here today as the two sides lay the groundwork for an ambitious free trade zone that would encompass one-third of the world's population.

Officials say the two-day gathering will be a low-key affair with no major announcements expected, while work continues on the free trade zone, a priority for Southeast Asian nations still feeling some jitters over China's economic power.

"I feel that the concern that we initially had that we might be overshadowed by China completely has been somewhat moderated," said Ong Keng Yong, secretary general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Under a framework agreement on economic partnership inked in 2002, China and Asean have seen freer trade in goods and all around tariff reductions since July 2005.

Talks on trade in services and investment are ongoing, and Asean officials say the parties are trying to finish negotiations on the first tranche of services to be liberalized by the end of 2006.

Free zone in 4 years

But the centerpiece of deepening relations is the plan to create the Asean-China Free Trade Area in the next four years.

The initiative aims to build a huge trading bloc with a free flow of goods, services and investment by 2010, a combined population of nearly two billion people and a gross domestic product of more than $2 trillion.

Excluding intra-Asean trade, China is now Southeast Asia's fourth-largest trading partner after the United States, Japan and the European Union. Asean is China's fourth-largest as well.

While two-way trade is rising, however—$130.3 billion in 2005 compared to $39.5 billion in 2000—Southeast Asia has watched China attract more and more foreign direct investment.

China is at pains to assist developing regional economies and downplay any threat from its economic might, but Asean is accelerating economic integration among members to increase competitiveness.

"Losing out in terms of foreign direct investment, that's not China's fault," said Rodolfo Severino, a former Asean secretary general who has worked with other veteran Southeast Asian politicians to boost relations.

Improve investment climate

"Asean has to do two things ... improve the national investment climate and regionally to accelerate economic integration," Severino said.

The leaders of the 10 Asean nations and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao will hold the closed-door summit today, and they will hold a separate business and investment meeting tomorrow.

Wen will also meet individually with each of the Asean leaders. The two sides will also sign a partnership declaration looking at expanding relations in the years to come, officials said.

"We will avoid any big-bang approach (such as) fancy new initiatives with millions of dollars," said Asean's Ong. "We (will) try our best to commit both sides to do more in the political, economic and sociocultural area."

Spratlys issue

One key political dispute involving several countries is over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam all claim full or partial sovereignty over the Spratlys, which are believed to contain vast oil and gas reserves. The isles have set off sporadic clashes for decades.

China in 2003 signed a nonaggression pact with Asean and in 2002, agreed with Southeast Asia to develop a code of conduct to resolve tensions over the Spratlys.

"We basically hope that with this impetus of the summit, we can get things going" on some form of agreement, Ong said.

But leaders are likely to skirt around thornier political issues at the summit, including the pace of democratic progress in Asean member Burma (Myanmar).

Burma's recalcitrance

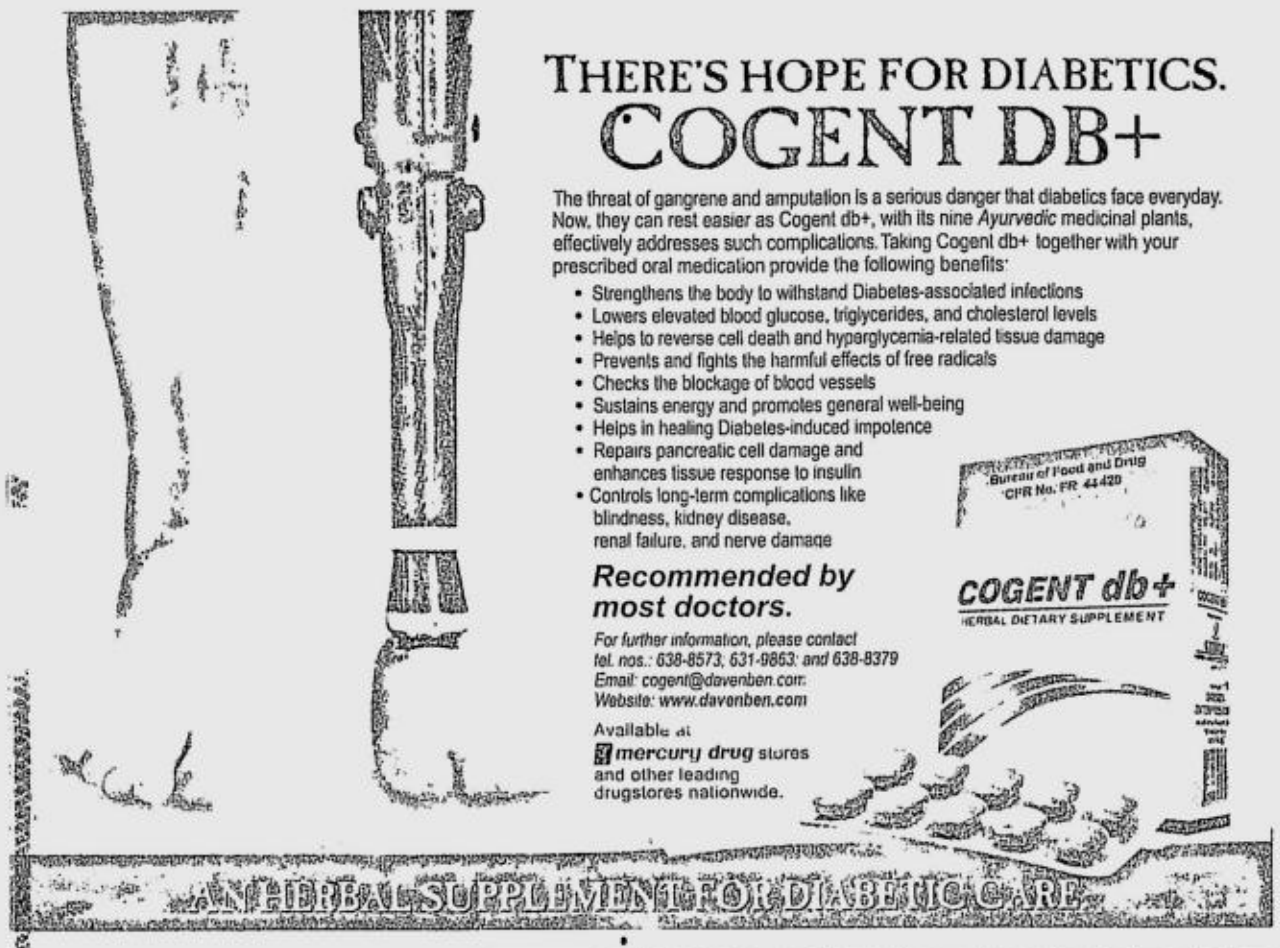
Increasingly embarrassed by the recalcitrance of the military junta in Burma (Myanmar), Ong and leaders of several Asean members have called on China and India to use their influence to pressure it into reforms.

But China, a major trading partner of Burma, has steadfastly maintained that it would not interfere in the internal affairs of Asean countries.

Ong said closed-door discussions would probably touch on Burma and other areas of concern, such as the Spratlys, but indicated the parties were moving on.

"(The issues) will always be difficult, they will always be troublesome, because our positions differ," he said.

Asean comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. *AFP*



Gloria vows to crush Reds within 3 years

From page A1

pines, had vowed to crush the 37-year-old communist insurgency.

In June, she committed P2 billion to fund an intensified military campaign against the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines. The funds are being spent to purchase arms and ammunition for the military as well as implement development projects in the insurgency-affected regions.

4 legacies

Crushing the communist insurgency and bringing peace and stability to the country were "emerging to be (among) my four legacies," Ms Arroyo said.

(In Manila, the INQUIRER tried to reach the CPP spokesperson, Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, through his mobile phone to get his comment, but no one answered the calls.)

Another legacy that she hopes to leave behind when she steps down will be the development of the super regions "so we can spread development all over the country and not only make it based in Imperial Manila," Ms Arroyo said.

She also said that she hoped to "keep the fire burning for fundamental political reforms through Charter change" for the rest of her term.

She said she might have had some regrets and disappointments in the past five years of her administration but added she was not one to dwell on them.

Secret to stamina

"Maybe that's the secret to my stamina," Ms Arroyo said, as she noted that the first important achievement of her administration in the past five years was the implementation of much needed fiscal reforms.

These reforms allowed the government to balance the budget and also allow it some economic independence, she said.

The President wrapped up yesterday her visits to the Chinese provinces of Fujian and Jiangxi.

At press time, Ms Arroyo and her delegation were heading to Nanning where the President, as chair of this year's leaders' summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), is set to cochair with China the two-day Asean-China commemmorative summit that begins today.

The President said she will raise concerns over North Korea's nuclear program and testing at the Asean-China summit as well as in her bilateral meeting with Chinese Premier Wen Jabiao today.

She believed that by "working together on the North Korean issue, we can promote stability."

Solidarity during crisis

"I will include (North Korea) in my opening statement," she said. "Even if the Asean-China forum is basically an economic forum, this is a very good opportunity to discuss not only economics but sensitive issues.

"When heads of state get together, it helps tie the region together, it strengthens solidarity in times of crisis," she said.

Last week, the President said her government was offering its offices as a venue for exploratory talks that could pave the way for Pyongyang to return to the six-party peace talks.

"China is the key to the North Korean issue," Ms Arroyo said in the interview with a Filipino columnist that was shared with reporters covering her China visit.

She pointed out that Pyongyang, which is under fire in the international community for exploding a nuclear device last month and proceeding with its nuclear program, was "economically dependent on China for trade."

"So that's one of the things that I will be consulting with Chinese Premier Wen Jabiao about," she said.

Aside from China, the President is expected to hold bilateral talks with the leaders of Malaysia, Laos and Vietnam.

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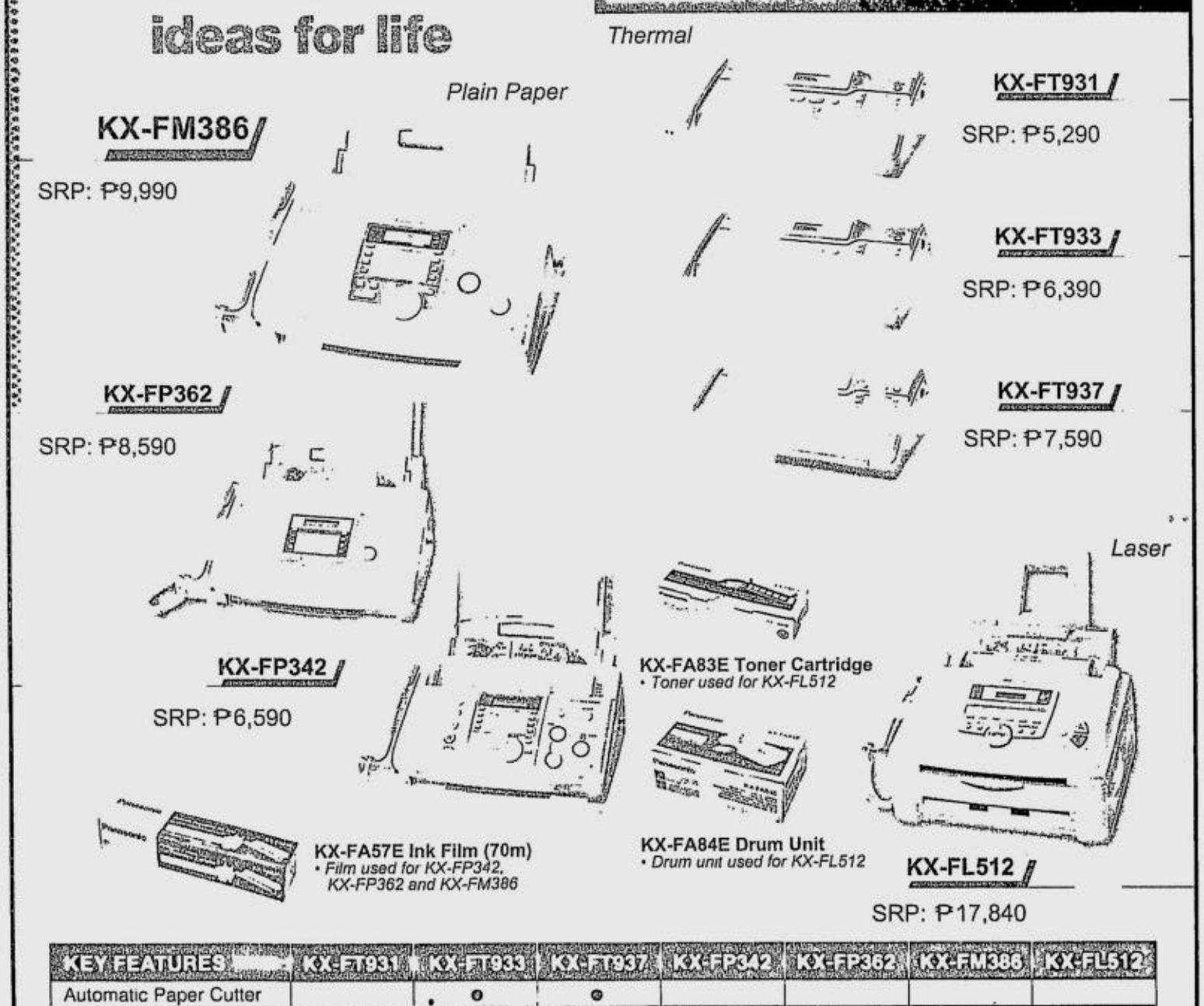

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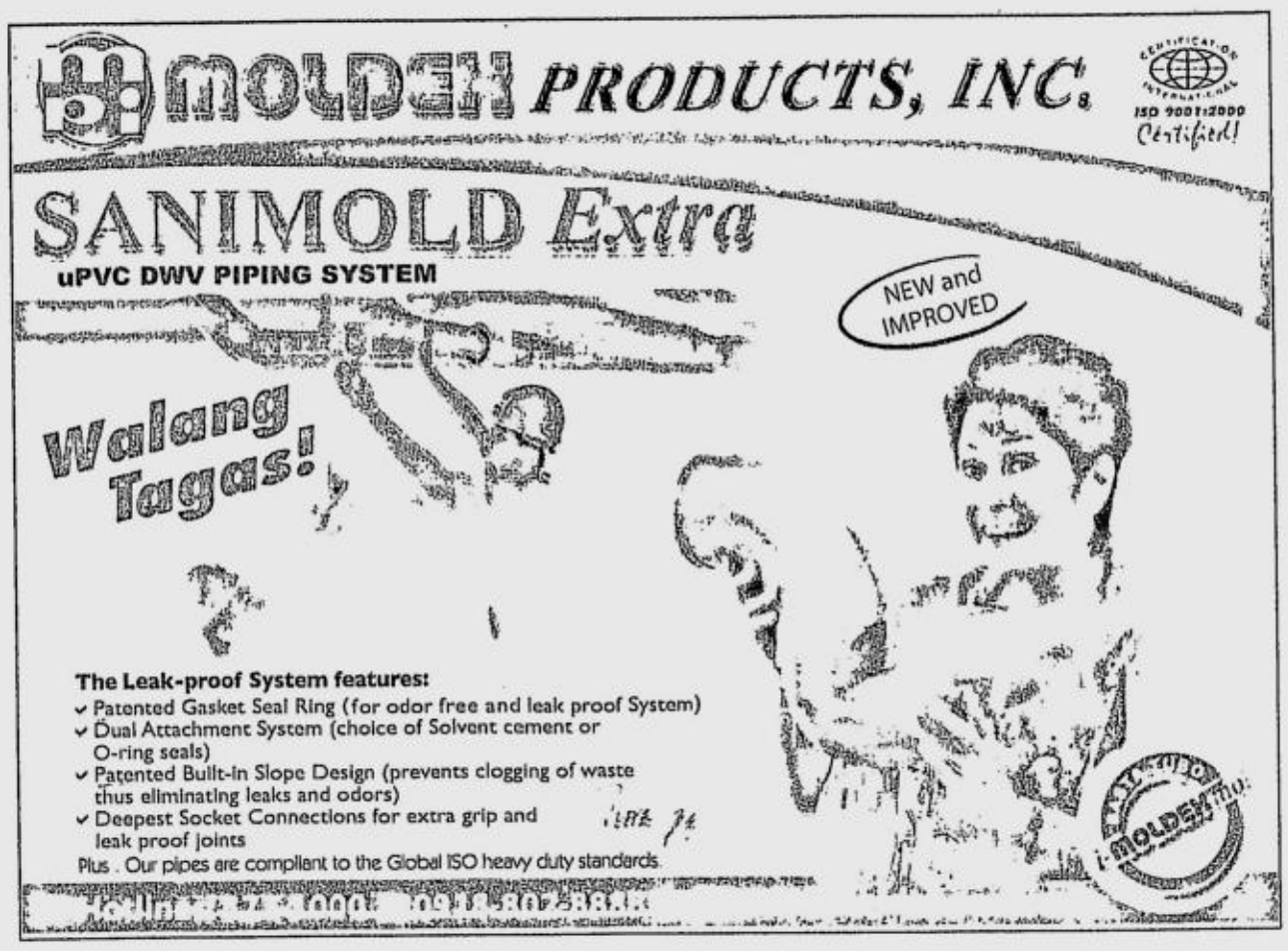

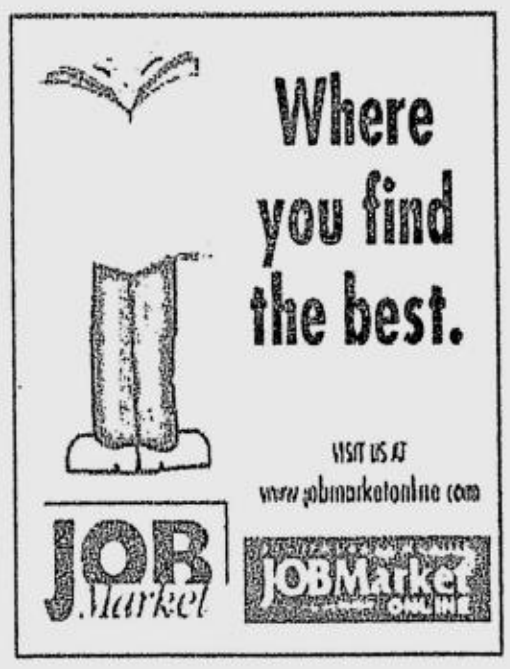

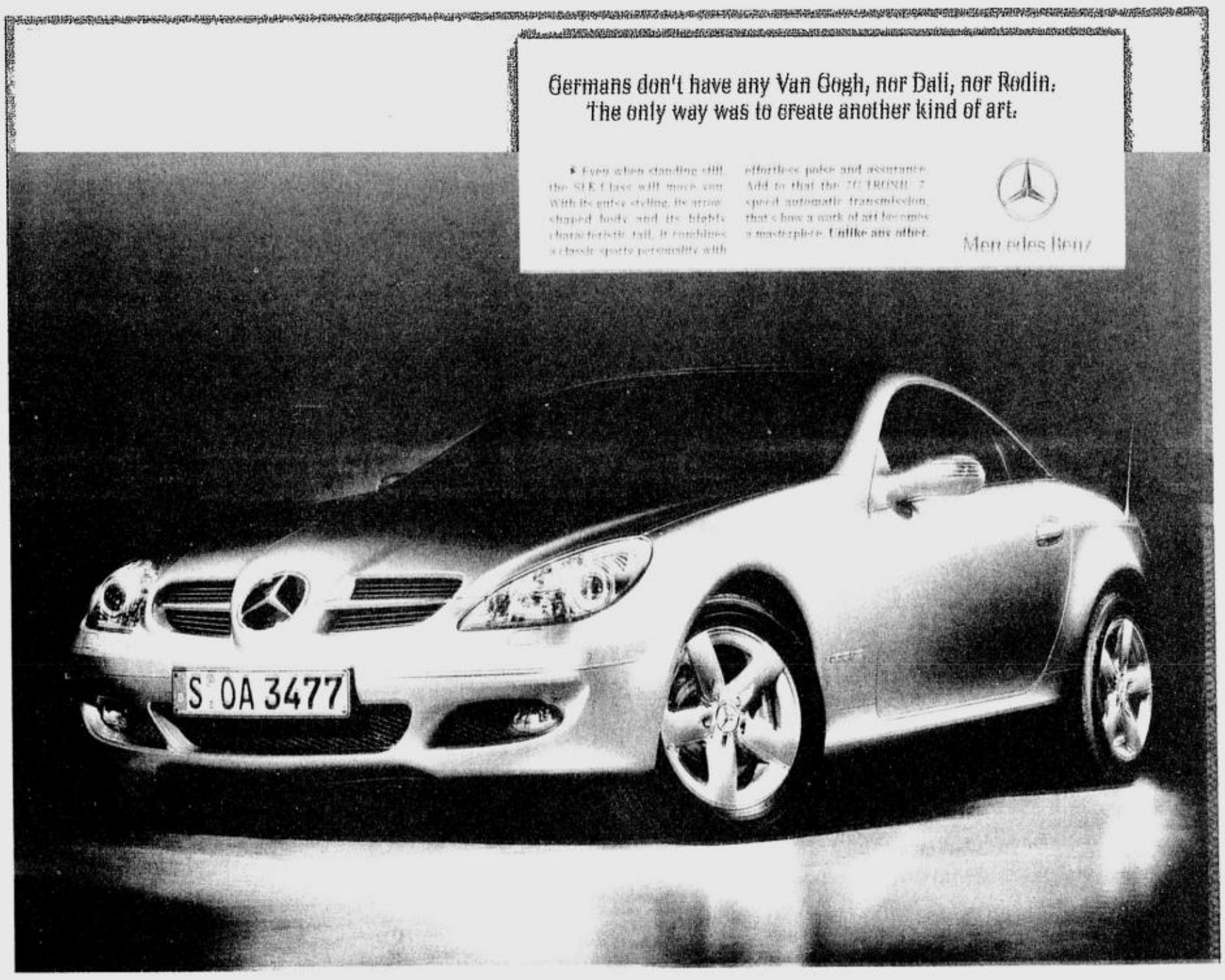

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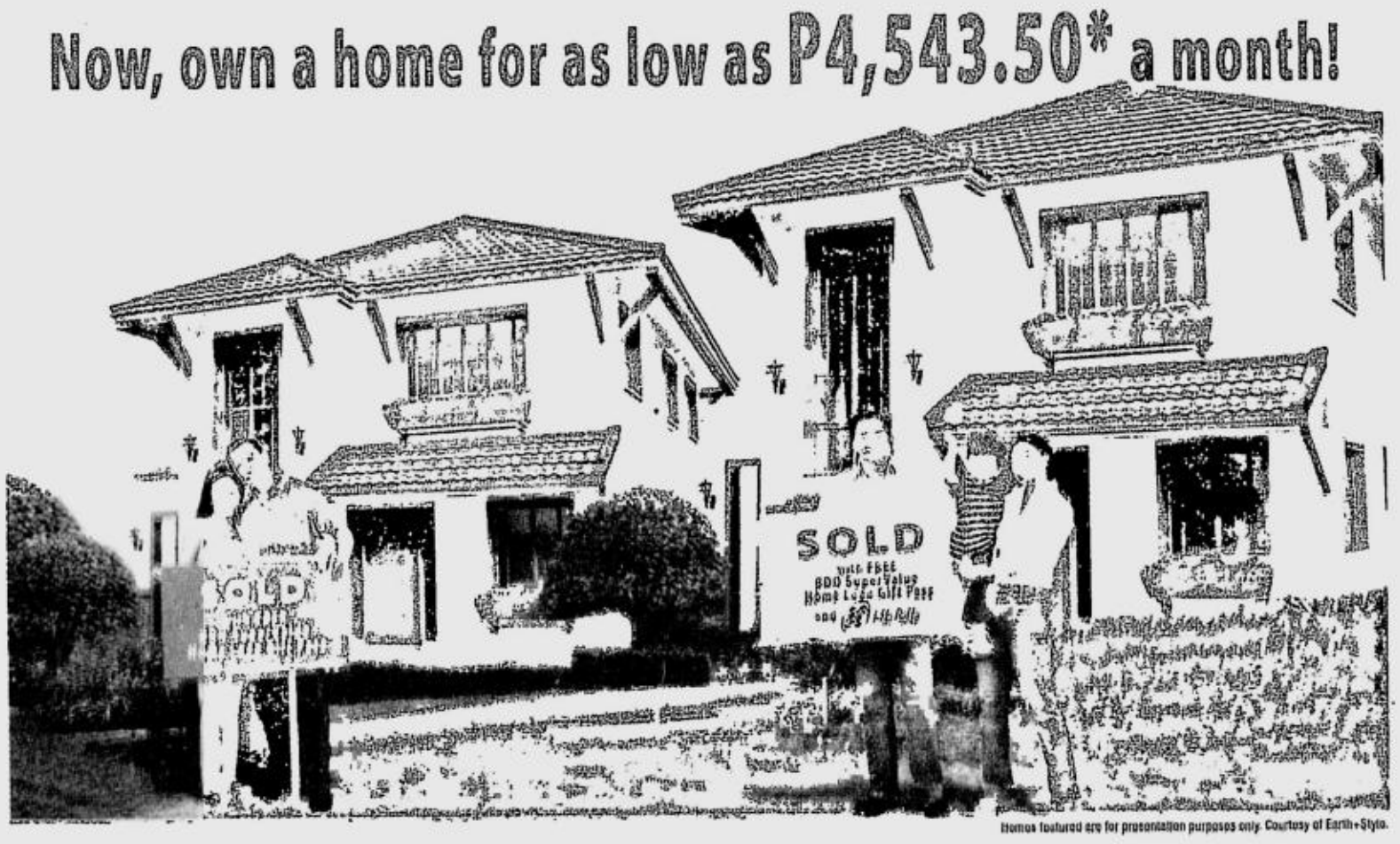


Homes featured are for presentation purposes only. Courtesy of Earth+Style.

Ruby Tower earthquake survivors ...

From page A1

later died. An undisclosed number of tenants, mostly Chinese-Filipinos, were never found.

On the 1,293-square-meter property now stands a two-story building that houses a shop selling industrial gaskets, lubricants and heat insulation materials, a hardware, an eatery and a cultural club called Philippine Dawning.

On the building's top floor is the Ruby Tower temple, built a couple of years after the Aug. 2, 1968, tragedy by the survivors who formed the Ruby Tower Memorial Foundation.

The shrine is "more than a memorial to the dead," some Sta. Cruz barangay officials pointed out. It also serves to remind us of some unpleasant truths about the construction business and, probably, the sad state of affairs in our judicial system, they said.

Most, if not all, city folk interviewed for this story no longer ask why it happened. But they still wonder: Will it take another Ruby Tower to shake those concerned out of their complacency?

A technical team formed by then Manila Mayor Antonio Villegas, the city fiscal's office and the Senate investigated the case.

Over a dozen charged

More than a dozen people were subsequently charged with multiple homicide and multiple physical injuries through criminal negligence.

They included Cesar Gocheco, manager of Solid Towers Inc. (STI) which owns the Ruby Tower, and STI directors Francisco Chiong, Pacifico Yap, Alfonso Gocheco and Lim Lian; architect Raymond Garcia; structural engineer Buenaflor Velasquez; labor contractor Chan Thaw; City Hall supervising engineer and concrete inspector Gavino Lindain and his assistant Julio Primero, and building inspector Rodolfo Vergel de Dios.

The 14-man technical team commissioned by Villegas to investigate the Ruby Tower's collapse disclosed that the building was "a product of catastrophic combination of poor design, deficient construction and inadequate inspection and supervision."

The body's 52-page interim report also revealed that "no soil exploration on the building site had been conducted. There were also no slump tests for concrete as well as strength tests for reinforcing steel."

"The supposed concrete inspector was at the job site only for about one hour daily, delegating his duties to an unlicensed engineering graduate. There were deviations from the approved plans during the actual construction and there were attempts to minimize costs of labor and materials to maximize profits," said the report.

The result: The building collapsed "like a house of cards," according to newspaper accounts.

No one answered for crime

Like former Ruby Tower shrine caretaker Rodolfo Galon, many city folk could not understand why no one has answered for the crime.

Because there's no more crime to speak of.

"They settled the case," current shrine caretaker Teresita Dy told the INQUIRER.

Solid Towers had earlier turned over the entire property to the survivors of the 1968 tragedy. "The survivors, represented by the foundation, now own this place," Dy said.

According to Dy, members of the foundation would rather not talk about anything associated with the accident.

"It is like a closed book to them," said Dy, who also helps run Gaspac Enterprise, the industrial materials shop on the ground floor.

Dy herself lost at least 10 of her former schoolmates in Binondo. She was 18 and a commerce sophomore at the University of Santo Tomas when the killer quake struck.

"It's understandable why the temple remains padlocked the whole year round, even on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. Apparently, those who survived the tragedy wanted to be left only with the cherished memories of their lost loved ones," said Dy.

Dy said many of the survivors had migrated to Canada and the United States.

Suzie and Shirley

Among them were Suzie Wong Chan, then aged 9 and a third grader at St. Stephen's School, and her cousin Shirley Wong Chan, then 12, whose survival beneath the rubble for more than 125 hours was considered nothing short of a miracle.

"But some return to the country for the Aug. 2 anniversary, and in typical Chinese tradition join fellow survivors in offering food, flowers and, of course, prayers for their departed loved ones," Dy said.

For the survivors, the entire block is hallowed ground.

The temple, Dy said, "has not changed much. The hall is still festooned with the same black and white pictures of about 100 of the quake victims. A cleaning woman drops by at least once a month."

Then President Ferdinand Marcos declared a state of national emergency after the quake, the weather bureau said, that hit Isabela at 4:21 a.m. and rolled through an 800-kilometer stretch from Aparri in Cagayan to Samar in 33 seconds.

More than 140 aftershocks were felt within a 15-hour period after the major quake. Fires triggered by the tremor hit the South Harbor and Feati University, among others, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

'A giant foot stamped on it'

"Crumpled as if a giant foot had stomped on it, the Ruby Tower was a mass of twisted steel and concrete with an estimated 600 to 800 occupants still trapped inside," the daily said.

The late Manila Times publisher Joaquin "Chino" Roces was "among the first to arrive at the disaster area to help rescue the victims." Marcos and then First Lady Imelda Marcos also came, accompanied by Leyte Gov. Benjamin Romualdez.

The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry and other private groups actively took part in the rescue efforts. One of its leaders, the late banker and philantrophist Ralph Nubla Sr., was later conferred by Marcos the Presidential Merit Award for "humanitarian services rendered during the Ruby Tower disaster."

Several gold bars recovered from the collapsed building were turned over to the federation.

Disaster management

When rescue operations ended on Aug. 9, 1968, the official death toll stood at 268. Many of the dead were never identified.

Maj. Gen. Gaudencio Tobias, then Armed Forces vice chief of staff and head of the Ruby Tower rescue efforts, declared that tenants who remained unaccounted for "might have escaped on their own or with the help of their neighbors shortly after the building collapsed."

When the Ruby Tower collapsed in 1968, the government's lack of interest in disaster management was somehow reversed. Later that year, the Marcos administration put up the National Committee on Disaster Operation which shortly afterward transferred its functions to the newly created Office of Civil Defense.

Next came the National Disaster Control Center, the forerunner of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, the highest policy-making body on disasters in the country.

Boy Scouts group now accepting girls

From page A1

cepting girls aged between 13 and 17 into the BSP Senior Scout Section.

Suppress that smile because the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) is not amused.

The GSP, headed by acting national president Susan R. Locsin, passed a resolution on Oct. 26 strongly objecting to the BSP move.

The GSP even wrote Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, the BSP national president, asking him for the immediate withdrawal of the BSP resolution and memorandum circular.

"Mr. President, the girls register with us because they want to be girl scouts and not boy scouts," Locsin said in her letter to Binay dated Oct. 26.

Binay, who presided over a meeting yesterday of members of the national executive board at the BSP Camp in Capitol Hills, Cebu City, was not available to give his side.

But the GSP resolution and Locsin's letter were discussed at the BSP meeting, according to BSP-Cebu Council chair Hernan Streegan.

Streegan said the national executive board decided to form a committee headed by Maximino Edralin, past BSP national president and chair of the BSP public relations committee, to hold a dialogue with the GSP officials.

Opposition

Streegan himself expressed opposition to the BSP recruitment of girls, saying that the BSP itself was facing difficulties implementing programs for boys.

Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama, a member of the board of the BSP Cebu Council, also opposed the move, which was embodied in a resolution approved by the BSP in August.

Rama said scouting programs were doing well, with boys belonging to the BSP and girls under the GSP.

"So why change that? It is like repairing an undamaged thing," he said.

Rama believed that there was no urgency or necessity in opening the BSP to girls.

"We have been growing up with boy scouts and girl scouts being separate. Besides, how can you become a boy scout if you are girl?" Rama said.

Based on documents provided to reporters here by GSP national treasurer Cristina Yuson, the BSP national executive board approved a resolution on Aug. 26 accepting girls aged between 13 and 17 into the Senior Scout Section.

Another document showed that BSP secretary general J Rizal C. Pangilinan issued Memorandum No. 47 in September directing all the regional scout directors, council scout executives and officers in charge to implement the BSP board resolution.

Pangilinan also attached to the memorandum the implementing guidelines.

Four reasons

Based on the memorandum signed by Pangilinan, the BSP national executive board gave four reasons for wanting to recruit girls.

The recruitment of girls is largely meant to "provide equal opportunities and equal partnership [to] young people, both within scouting and in [the] local, national and international community," the board said.

Other reasons:

- Provide opportunities to help young people develop their potential, respect their individual differences, and go beyond traditional gender roles.
- Contribute to the development of the Filipino youth by helping build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in Philippine society.
- Pursue the World Organization of Scout Movement's policy encouraging female membership in the youth program.

Under the implementing guidelines, girls who are in high school can become members of the Senior Scouting Program but they have to register first with the Girl Scouts of the Philippines and pay the GSP fees. After that, they may register with the BSP.

The girls should also get parental or guardian consent before they can be accepted into the BSP.

The GSP said the BSP resolution and its implementing guidelines were in conflict with the GSP charter that has its own standards, rules and regulations for its members.

Prevent confusion

The BSP should immediately disregard National Office Memorandum No. 47 "to prevent confusion among girls, parents and supporters of GSP and the public in general," the GSP said.

Among those who were furnished a copy of the GSP resolution were President Macapagal-Arroyo (the Chief Girl Scout), Binay, the Department of Education and the Girl Scout councils.

Locsin noted that while the GSP national president was a member of the BSP National Executive Board, she or the GSP did not receive any notice for the Aug. 26 meeting where the BSP approved the plan.

Astounded

GSP officials were "astounded" by the BSP's "clear disregard" of their rights as a national organization and member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, according to Locsin.

She said the need to register first with the GSP before registering with the BSP amounted to misleading the girls, their parents and the public.

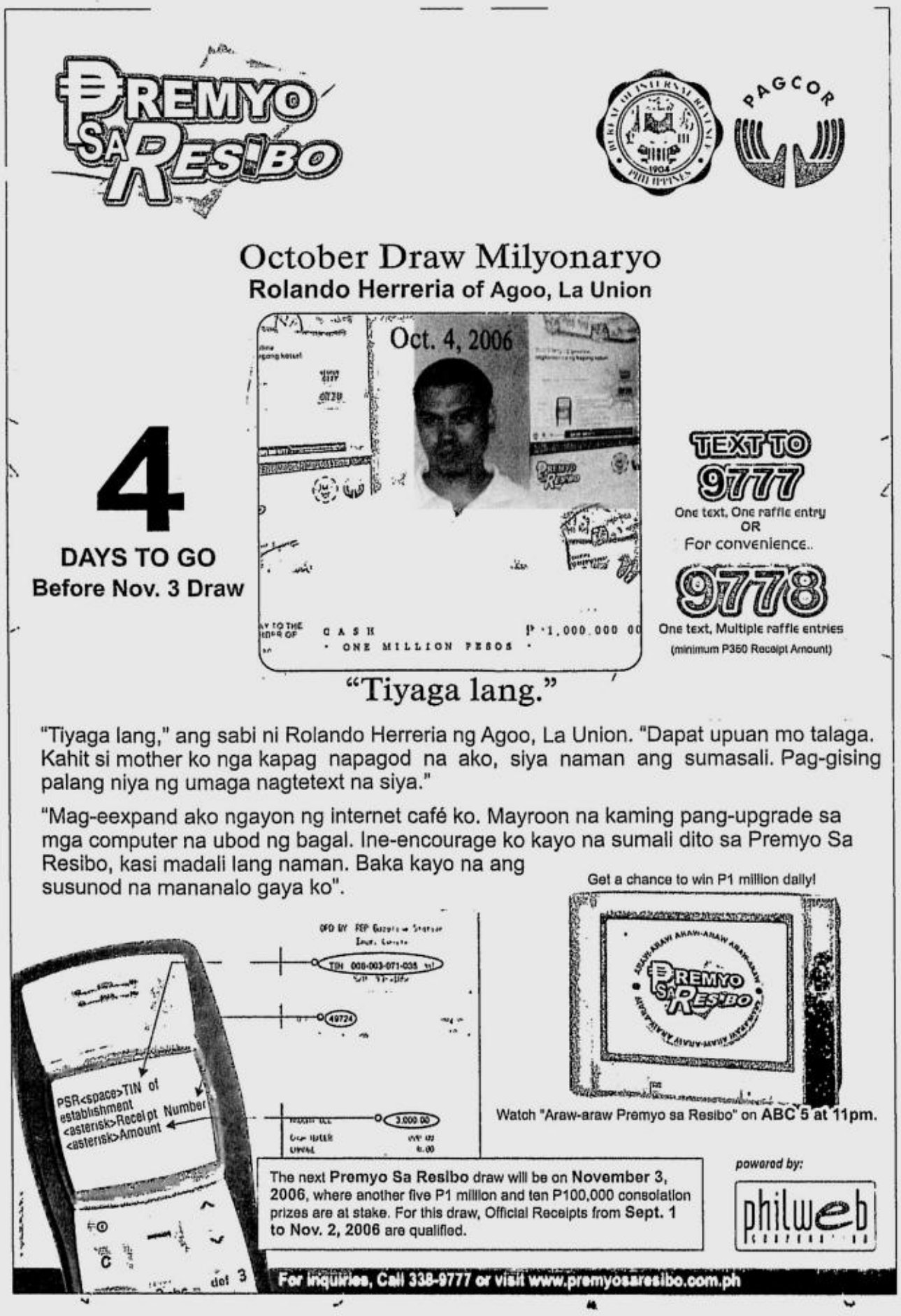
Streegan said he was informed at yesterday's meeting that the move was not compulsory.

Requiring girls to register first with the GSP was meant to discourage them from joining the BSP, according to him.

He said his organization opened its doors to girls because several girls had wanted to join the BSP because they did not like the GSP program.

Some girls found the GSP program "too girly," according to Streegan.

He said the challenge now was for the GSP to improve its program so that girls would not be interested in joining the BSP.



Militant lawmaker prefers House to hospital detention

By Philip C. Tubeza

DETAINED MILITANT LAWMAKER REP Crispin Beltran will formally ask the Supreme Court today to order his release to the custody of the House of Representatives, his chief of staff said yesterday.

Ina Alleco Silverio said Beltran's lawyers, led by lawyer Romeo Capulong, would file a motion for certiorari and ask the high tribunal to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) against the Makati court trying Beltran on rebellion charges.

"This is an urgent petition calling on the [Supreme Court] to step into the breach and impose a TRO on the unjust decisions being laid down by the Makati Regional Trial Court on the case," Silverio said.

"With a TRO on the court's decisions, we can move forward with other legal moves [so] Ka Bel would be able to attend the sessions of Congress pending the continuing investigation of his case," she said.

"We also seek to have Ka Bel transferred to the House of Representatives and there, in the meantime, be placed under the protection of the congressional leadership, Silverio said.

Beltran, who is under police custody at the Philippine Heart Center, will also ask the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order and a writ of preliminary injunction to restrain the trial court and the Department of Justice from proceeding with the rebellion case against him.

Silverio said Beltran had been "unjustly incarcerated for eight months" after he was accused of being involved in a failed coup attempt in February.

"Ka Bel's accusers have been unable to present indisputable proof that he was plotting with the disgruntled members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines or with leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines at the time of the Edsa II commemorations earlier this year," she said.

"Since 2001 up to the time he was arrested, Ka Bel has been a member of the House of Representatives most deserving of the adjective 'honorable' and performed his tasks and duties as a representative of the poor and marginalized sectors," she said.

Silverio said the charges against Beltran were "all intended to deny the Filipino people a most effective legislator and street parliamentarian."

DAR orders part of Yulo estate returned to tillers

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM has annulled the conversion order covering a portion of the vast Yulo estate in Laguna to pave the way for its return to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Citing the property owners' failure to develop the land after it was converted to residential use, the DAR partially revoked the 1979 conversion order on the 216.73 hectares in the Yulo estate in Canlubang, Laguna.

In an order he signed in September, Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman granted the petition of Kasamaka-Canlubang Inc., a group of farmers on the estate, and ordered the return of 66.73-ha of the 216.73-ha to CARP coverage.

"In view of the clear failure of the Canlubang Sugar Estate to convert and develop a portion of the subject landholdings, which allegedly remain to be agricultural, this office finds substantial basis to grant the instant petition," Pangandaman said in the order dated Sept. 25 but which the farmers received only recently.

The DAR also ordered the provincial agrarian reform officer (Paro) and the municipal agrarian reform officer (Maro) to determine the true ownership of the 66-ha portion, given that a separate corporation was set up to carry out the conversion.

The 1979 conversion order specifically directed the Laguna Estates Development Corp., the company created by the Yulos to oversee the conversion of the 216.73 ha, to develop the landholding within two years from receipt of the conversion order.

"It has been 27 years and the site has remained undeveloped," said Kasamaka-Canlubang president Pablito Egildo.

"Furthermore, the Maro is directed to advise the farmers/beneficiaries not to enter the landholdings until proper documentation and legal proceedings have been completed," Pangandaman said in the order.

The estate has 15 days from Oct. 2 to file its opposition or take other legal action. For its part, Kasamaka-Canlubang said it was working to ensure the 66-ha would revert to CARP coverage. *Blanche S. Rivera*

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GMA aide confirms Cabinet split but no revamp

From page A1

The strongly worded court ruling against the people's initiative was penned by Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, also one of the firm's founding partners.

Nothing wrong

A Malacañang official earlier told the INQUIRER that the scathing Supreme Court decision indicated a falling out between the Palace and "The Firm."

Claudio confirmed that Cruz had been vocal in his opposition to the Sigaw/Ulap initiative, bringing it up with him and other Cabinet officials and even with the President herself. He said Cruz "didn't think it would work" or gain Supreme Court backing.

"In small circles within the Cabinet, and with me, Secretary Cruz did speak about his disagreement with PI (people's initiative) as a method for amending the Constitution," Claudio said.

"Nothing wrong with that, I guess. His advice and candidness, as long as they are confined to the Cabinet, are valued as always," Claudio said.

Cruz defended

Claudio immediately added: "I am not aware of any instance where he publicly campaigned against PI, contrary to the position taken by the President, nor tried to subvert its chances of success, particularly in the SC. If he did, that's a different thing."

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the contrary position that Cruz had taken on the people's initiative did not mean he should be dropped from the Cabinet.

"I don't think it's wise to demote Secretary Cruz. Why? Well, I think he's doing his job well," Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

He also said Cruz's job was distinct from the Charter change issue.

"Obviously, he has a different view on the people's initiative, but that does not necessarily mean a falling out with the President. His job as secretary of defense has nothing to do with Cha-cha," he said.

Cha-cha still rolling

In any case, Gonzalez said, any change in the Cabinet lineup was "a matter that the President alone can decide."

Gonzalez also said he had not seen any signs of a rift among Cabinet members because of opposing opinions about the people's initiative.

As for Cruz's reported statement that some colleagues wanted him out, Gonzalez said he had no idea to whom Cruz was referring, and added that the latter could have been the target of intrigue.

Malacañang made it clear yesterday it had not given up on Cha-cha.

SC reversal

Claudio indicated the Palace was banking on the Supreme Court reversing itself or on Congress convening itself into a constituent assembly to realize its goal of changing the country's form of government to a parliamentary from the presidential system.

"The final fate of Charter change through a people's initiative or constituent assembly will probably be determined by the time Congress goes on Christmas recess," Claudio said.

Ms Arroyo's allies in the House of Representatives have said they plan to convene a constituent assembly with or without the participation of the Senate and that convening the constituent assembly will be the chamber's first agenda when it resumes sessions on Nov. 6.

Claudio said Malacañang remained confident about the chances of Sigaw ng Bayan and Ulap winning a reconsideration of the high court's decision.

Election plans on hold

"The narrow defeat of the people's initiative in the SC does not diminish the urgency and righteousness of political reforms through Charter change," Claudio said.

He said the administration was putting on hold preparations for the fielding of its senatorial and local slates for the May 2007 elections in the hope that the next elections would be for a parliament.

"We don't want to talk about (the senatorial slate) because even at this point, we are still adamant and hopeful about the shift to the parliamentary system such that the next elections would be for the parliament and not for the Senate," Claudio said in a phone interview.

He said that if the constitutional and legal hurdles to the people's initiative or a constituent assembly were not resolved by the Christmas break, the administration would make "formal, open and aggressive preparations for the elections."

Congress goes on recess on Dec. 22.

Wish for revenge

"We are confident about being able to put up a strong senatorial lineup from the ranks of the Senate and local executives," Claudio said.

"We do not wish to formalize or openly discuss such a process because we have not given up on the plan for the establishment of a parliament."

He added: "In the event of an election, the administration will have a decided advantage in having a formidable campaign machinery nationwide. We will be able to field candidates for all 17,000 local positions."

Claudio said the administration had a major advantage in the elections because 75 percent of all incumbent congressmen and local officials belonged to the administration coalition.

"You can be sure that many of them will exact revenge against opposition candidates for the Senate going against Cha-cha," he said. *With a report from Leila B. Salaverria*

Con-ass pushed in House

TIME MAY BE SLIPPING AWAY but there is no turning back from Cha-cha.

Administration lawmakers made that clear yesterday as they dismissed calls for the House of Representatives to abandon its plan to push through with a constituent assembly and amend the Constitution.

Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin and Rep. Mauricio Domogan (Lakas, Baguio City), vice chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, said the House would not be swayed by critics' claims that Charter change (Cha-cha) was dead.

Salapuddin said a caucus called by Speaker Jose de Venecia for next week would be crucial for House members in planning their strategy on convening a constituent assembly and proposing Charter amendements even without the Senate's participation.

"We may call the double loss in the (Commission on Elections) and (Supreme Court) a temporary setback, but certainly nobody loves a loser," he said.

Salapuddin said the Cha-cha proponents wanted to "fast-track the process because we believe that time is not on our side."

He added: "To say that we should scrap con-ass now is to turn our backs on our constituents who want Cha-cha for the betterment of our country."

Domogan said opposition calls for the House to give up the idea of a constituent assembly "is always their song."

"This is a crucial moment for Cha-cha and we, in the House, will show solidarity in pushing con-ass to dispel the negativism of anti-Cha-cha groups," Domogan said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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SC justices subordinate private gratitude to public interest

From page A1

the oust-Arroyo drive was shifted to the Supreme Court as an arena of confrontation outside the political arena.

Thus, the petition in the court inevitably acquired the complexion of a test of judicial approval or disapproval of an initiative closely identified with the President. This was the circumstance and public pressure against which the court had to make a decision.

On the face of its decision, there was nothing to suggest that the court had allowed this extraneous factor to influence its decision and compromise its independence.

Crushing blow

The harshness of the language is neither the main issue nor the defining element of the decision, and should not be allowed to becloud its more far-reaching significance.

This declaration not only delivered the devastating blow to the people's initiative movement. More important, it came as a powerful rebuff to the project of Ms Arroyo for constitutional reform, initiated either for making the political system more responsive to the challenges of modern economic development and less prone to gridlock, or for the narrower aim of ensuring the longevity of her regime.

The strong words of the majority decision, as well as the 8-7 vote, deflated the petitioners' false expectations of a favorable vote.

Ms Arroyo's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, expressed the President's disappointment, saying she was "really perplexed" that those whom she had appointed to the Supreme Court "would turn out to have the harshest opinions."

Defensor was apparently referring to Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, who penned the majority opinion in scathing language.

In dismissing the people's initiative petition of Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (referred to as the Lambino group in the petition), the decision said that it was void and unconstitutional because "it dismally fails to comply with the requirement of Section 2, Article XVII of the Constitution that the initiative must be 'directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition.'"

Court warning

In an unmistakable rebuff of the initiative project, which the Lambino group admitted was "an unqualified support to (sic) the agenda" of the President for constitutional change, the court warned:

"No one can trivialize the Constitution by cavalierly amending or revising it in blatant violation of the clearly specified modes of amendment and revision laid down by the Constitution itself.

"To allow such change in the fundamental law is to set adrift the Constitution in uncharted waters, to be tossed and turned by every dominant political group of the day. If this court allows today a cavalier change in the Constitution outside the constitutionally prescribed modes, tomorrow the new dominant political group that comes will demand its own set of changes in the same cavalier and unconstitutional fashion.

A revolving-door constitution does not auger well for the rule of law in this country."

Guardian of the Constitution

The court pointed out that no amount of signatures, not even the 6.3 million signatures collected by the Lambino group, can change the Constitution contrary to the specific modes that the people, in their sovereign capacity, prescribed when they ratified the Constitution.

"The alternative is an extraconstitutional change, which means subverting the people's sovereign will and discarding the Constitution," the decision said.

"This is one act the court cannot and should not and should never do," as the "ultimate guardian of the Constitution."

Falling out

Apparently, administration supporters did not take this lofty declaration on its face.

Some administration officials tried to trivialize the decision by insinuating the strong language could have stemmed from a "falling out" between the President and the Villaraza & Angangco law firm, where Justice Carpio was a senior partner before his appointment to the Supreme Court.

It appears the President could not quite accept the fact that, first, 10 of the 15 justices of the court that rejected the petition are her appointees; second, Carpio had been a trusted legal and political brain trust since 2001 when she took over Malacañang from deposed President Joseph Estrada; and, third, both Carpio and Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban were actively involved in the decision of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and the court to swear in then Vice President Arroyo following the collapse of the Estrada administration.

Public interest over gratitude

Insinuations springing from those facts should be rejected outright because they are unfounded, irrelevant and ignore the fact that the issues of 2001 and those surrounding the people's initiative are different.

If at all, the opinions of Carpio, Panganiban (who wrote a scathing concurring opinion) and of the other appointees of the President underline the independence of the individual justices.

Their positions highlight the lesson that it is dangerous to take for granted the sense of independence of the justices.

The decision demonstrates the higher value the justices attached to placing public interest above loyalty to the appointing power.

They subordinated personal gratitude to pubic interest.

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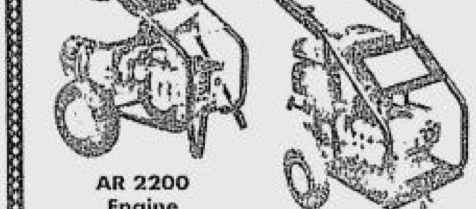

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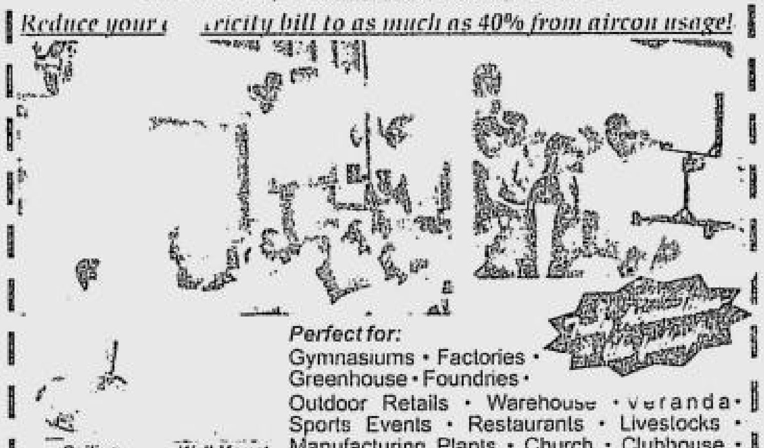

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TUCP: Win by Democrats in US polls to benefit RP

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE OUTCOME OF NEXT MONTH'S congressional elections in the United States could affect the labor situation in the Philippines, according to the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.

Should the Democratic Party dominate the Nov. 7 polls, the Philippines could benefit in terms of more investments and jobs because of the party's plan to raise the US minimum wage, said TUCP secretary general Ernesto Herrera.

Recent US surveys indicate the Democrats are leading the Republicans, whose chances at the polls have dimmed after a series of scandals.

All 435 seats in the US House of Representatives and 33 of the 100 seats in the Senate will be up for grabs in the Nov. 7 elections.

"The Democrats have already vowed they will raise the federal minimum wage once they seize control of Congress. This will drive American companies to accelerate the transfer of more jobs to lower-cost locations such as the Philippines," Herrera said in a statement.

The current federal minimum wage in the US is $5.15 per hour, and the Democrats want to raise this to at least $7.25 per hour, according to the TUCP. It said this would mean automatic increases in all but four US states where the hourly floor wage is already $7.25 or higher.

Herrera also said the additional jobs as a result of the higher US minimum wage would come not only from business process outsourcing, which would contribute to the Philippines' booming call center industry, but also from investments in the semiconductor and electronics industry.

The TUCP said the business process outsourcing industry and the export-driven chipmakers had contributed much to the growth of the Philippine economy.

Quoting the Business Processing Association of the Philippines, it said technology-enabled outsourcing services were projected to employ up to 1,082,800 Filipinos by 2010.

Among the US-based outsourcing providers already established in the Philippines are IBM Corp., Accenture Ltd., Affiliated Computer Services Inc., Convergys Corp., TeleTech Holdings Inc., NCO Group Inc., Sykes Enterprises Inc., ICT Group Inc., SITEL Corp., PeopleSupport Inc., APAC Customer Services Inc. and Sutherland Global Services Inc.

On the other hand, the TUCP said the Philippines' semiconductor and electronics industry had so far generated 26,167 new jobs this year, mainly in expansion projects.

The creation of new jobs was boosted by the global demand for mobile phones, high-definition TVs, computers and digital video players, it said.

The TUCP said several US-based chipmakers already had Philippine operations. These included Intel Corp., Texas Instruments Inc., National Semiconductor Corp., Fairchild Semiconductor International Co. and AMIS Holdings Inc.

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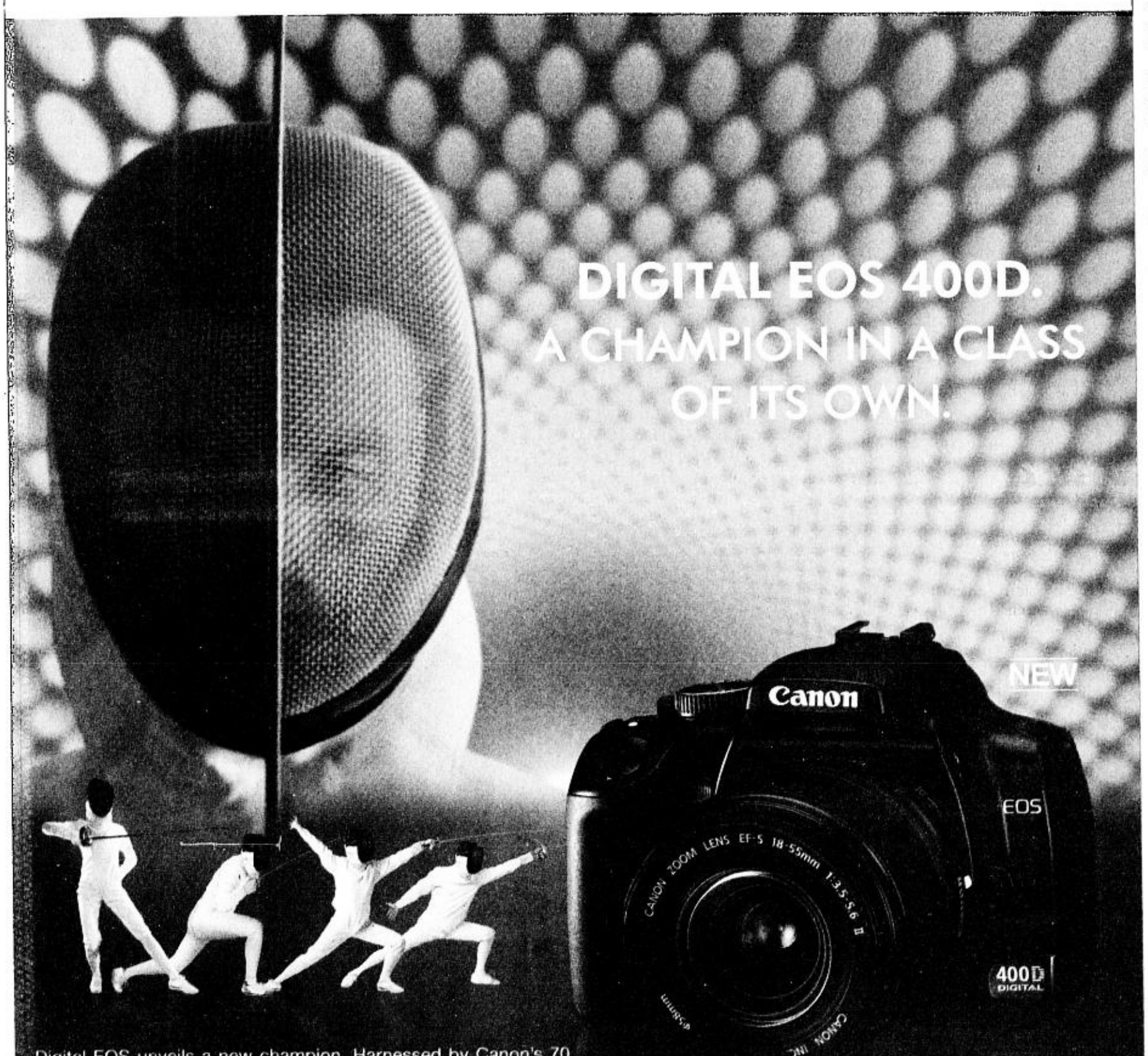

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No bias against new nurses, med tours chief vows

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHO'D BE WILLING TO TAKE IN NURSES who passed last June's controversial board exams?

The head of the country's bustling medical tourism program yesterday said the new nurses were welcome in the program's affiliated hospitals.

"There won't be any discrimination," Health Undersecretary Jade del Mundo told the INQUIRER Saturday night.

Del Mundo, the government's point-person in the new, multimillion-peso medical tourism industry, said there would be more opportunities for June passers to work in medical tourism-affiliated hospitals, once the program expands to the provinces next year.

So far, the program includes prominent hospitals like St. Luke's Medical Center, Asian Hospital, Medical City, Makati Medical Center, Capitol Medical Center, Lung Center, Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Philippine Children's Medical Center and East Avenue Medical Center.

The plan will soon include top government hospitals in Central Luzon, Baguio, Cebu, Iloilo and Davao, Del Mundo said.

He noted that medical tourism hospitals would still require nursing applicants to meet certain criteria, like board exam rating, training and experience.

"One thing we can assure the June passers is that they would be given equal opportunities," he said.

Before the CA gave the go-signal for the oath-taking of more than 15,000 successful nursing examinees last week, a number of June passers had complained about some hospitals' refusal to even consider their applications.

Del Mundo said government hospitals in the provinces would provide good training for the new nurses.

He said these hospitals would be attractive to foreign patients because they offer surgical procedures at lower cost and they are located near tourist destinations.

So far, hospitals in Bicol, Cebu and Davao are offering difficult procedures such as coronary artery bypass graft, which costs P500,000 or half the cost of having it done abroad.

Hospitals in Davao and Cebu also offer kidney transplantation at P3 million. Elsewhere, the complicated procedure could cost about P7 million, Del Mundo said.

Illegal recruitment cases up 36%—POEA

MORE SUCKERS ARE STILL BORN EVERY minute.

The number of illegal recruitment cases rose by more than a third during the first nine months of the year, according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

The POEA said a total of 1,423 cases related to illegal recruitment were filed with the agency from January to September this year, or 36 percent higher than the 1,046 recorded in the same period in 2005.

But POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the agency's disposition rate of illegal recruitment cases stood at 21 percent as of September 2006, up by eight percent from 13 percent in the same period last year.

Of the 1,423 cases, the POEA facilitated the filing of 276 cases in court for preliminary investigation while 27 were archived or closed.

Baldoz, however, said the rise in the number of illegal recruitment cases did not necessarily reflect the national situation. She said complaints on illegal recruitment were also dealt with by the police, National Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement agencies.

Baldoz admitted the POEA had a hard time putting illegal recruiters behind bars because many of the victims usually opted not to lodge a court case or desisted from one already filed once they got their money back.

She said she hoped the POEA would be given more teeth in curbing illegal recruitment following an understanding between the labor department and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas. *Jerome Aning*

STRONG TIES. President Macapagal-Arroyo and Jiangxi Gov. Huang Zhiquan (right) exchange pleasantries during her visit to Nanchang University in Jiangxi, China, on Saturday.

UNIVERSITY VISIT. President Arroyo receives a token of appreciation from an unidentified Nanchang University official after she addressed the university's students on the coming Asean-China summit. With them are Governor Zhiquan (right) and Li Jinjun (left). PATRICK CASTILLO/PCPO

Airport X-ray machine sees all

THIS WOMAN-TRAVELER'S INGENUITY apparently was no match for an airport X-ray machine and the security personnel manning it.

Police yesterday arrested Nuraisa Aliuddin, 33, for alleged possession of some 500 grams of suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride, better known as shabu.

The prohibited drugs were in 10 small plastic sachets that had been sewn into the lining of Aliuddin's baggage. They were discovered during the X-ray screening process at the Manila Domestic Airport at noon yesterday, a police report said.

According to the report, an airport security officer noticed suspicious images as Aliuddin's blue-green trolley bag passed through the X-ray machine at the airport's initial security check station.

An officer of the police Aviation Security Group (ASG) inspected the bag and found the sachets in its lining. *Nikko Dizon*

Peak season, US audit reasons for long lines at Naia

By Nikko Dizon

THE PEAK TRAVEL SEASON PLUS a security audit equals long queues at the airport.

In the past few days, lines at the check-in counters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) have been unusually long, apparently indicating two things: The peak season for travel has begun and the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is conducting its annual security audit.

"*Andito kasi ang TSA* (It's because the TSA is here)," two airport security personnel at Naia 1 muttered when asked separately by the INQUIRER on Friday why there were long lines at the entrance to the departure and arrival areas.

The TSA began its weeklong audit on Oct. 26 and is expected to wrap it up on Nov. 2.

Nonuniformed and uniformed airport security officers diligently inspected each piece of luggage.

Every passenger entering the airport terminal had to undergo a thorough frisking from head to toe, front and back.

Security guards also made sure only two to three persons were lined up at the X-ray machine by the employee entrance at Naia 1 before letting the next person enter through the sliding doors.

With the onset of the peak season for travel, security personnel screened more than the usual number of passengers.

Lines before the airlines' check-in counters snaked through the Naia 1 departure area, especially at noon yesterday.

"It's not just because the TSA is here, you have to remember it's the peak season now," an aviation security official said.

But a source who requested anonymity said queues appear whenever the TSA is doing an audit.

"It's like when the cat is away, the mouse will play. That's why we feel the tightening of security at the Naia when the TSA is here because we don't want to fail their assessment," the source said.

A thumbs-down from the TSA would mean that the US might issue a travel advisory against the Philippines, the source said.

Americans top tourist arrivals to RP to date

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM'S "balikbayan" program in North America appears to be paying off after United States citizens topped the list of foreign tourist arrivals through the third quarter of the year.

A DOT report said 424,494 Americans visited the Philippines from January to September, accounting for more than a fifth of total tourist arrivals.

In the middle of the year, the DOT launched the Grand Pinoy Homecoming Tour to encourage Filipino-Americans, Americans of Filipino descent and their relatives and friends to visit the country and check out its tourist destinations.

The program was also launched in Canada, which placed ninth in the list. Some 54,511 Canadians visited the Philippines, a 9.6-percent increase over the same period last year.

Other arrivals were Filipinos permanently residing overseas but who still held Philippine passports, with 107,972 of them visiting the motherland, a 21.6-percent increase over last year.

Total foreign arrivals for the first nine months of the year peaked at 2,085,783, which was 9.4-percent more than the 1,907,405 that came in the same period last year.

South Korea, with 406,480 citizens, came in second in terms of visitor volume. Its 16.4-percent growth rate, however, was higher than the US' 8.1 percent.

The East Asian region continued to be the country's top source of foreign visitors. After South Koreans, Japanese tourists numbered 326,219, Chinese 98,136, Taiwanese 87,471 and Hong Kong-ites 70,804, topping the DOT's roster of 10 top markets.

Also on the list were Australia, Singapore, Canada and the United Kingdom. *Jerome Aning*

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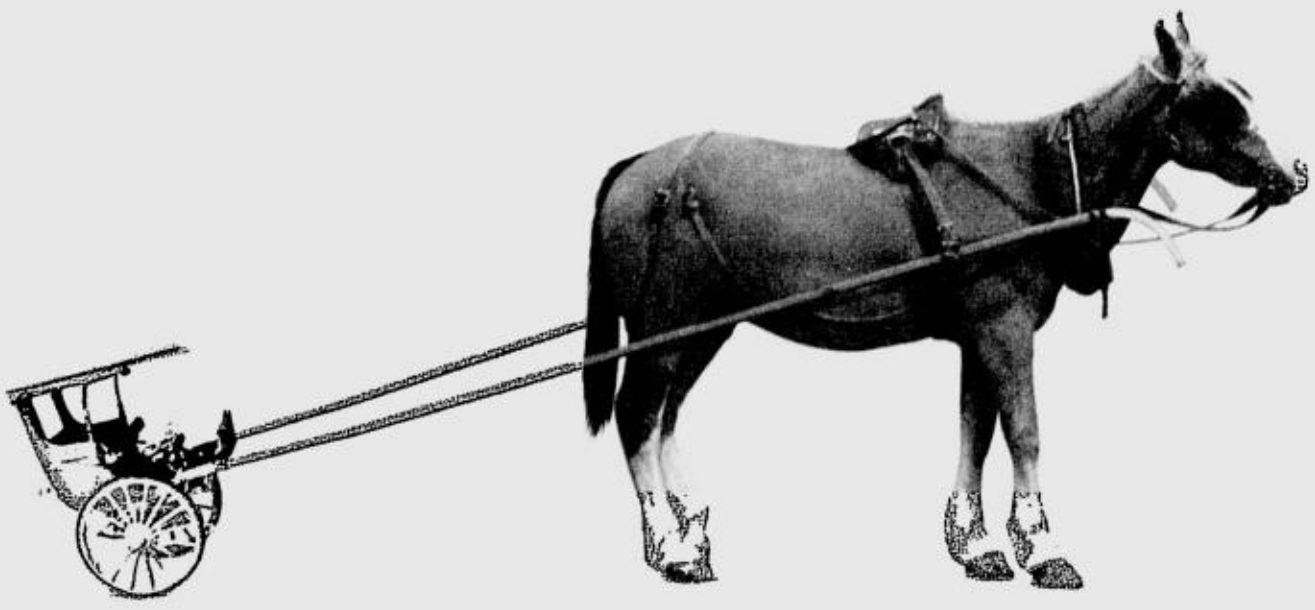

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Killing the SC, softly

EDITORIAL

THOSE WHOM THE GODS BY THE PASIG RIVER wish to destroy, they first call political. Consider the cavalier words offered by Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone to explain last week's 8-7 vote in the Supreme Court..The spokesman of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, the people's initiative petitioner closely identified with the Arroyo administration, insinuated, without taking responsibility for his allegation, that Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban was running for the Senate. "We have heard he might run and I will not be surprised if he will be picked up by the opposition," he told reporters traveling with President Macapagal-Arroyo in China.

The object of his ire, of course, was the reported swing vote in the close decision; as Chief Justice, Panganiban enjoys the privilege of voting last. The objective of Evardone's unfriendly fire was even more obvious: he wanted to taint the decision that junked the people's initiative, by baselessly ascribing partisan, political motives to those who voted against the bid.

Other officials even more closely identified with the President have also issued statements that assume the decision is politically tainted.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez confirmed rumors about a reported rift between some members of the Cabinet and the President's favorite law firm, when he claimed that "there's a big law firm that is cheering ... that it defeated Malacañang." Secretary Michael Defensor, the President's chief of staff, said the Chief Executive was "really perplexed" that her appointees to the high court "would turn out to have the harshest opinions."

These two statements—and Evardone's unkind insinuation—assume that Supreme Court justices are merely politicians in robes, policymakers who base their decisions not on the great principle of "facts and the law" but on the give and take of politics. These statements are not—as perhaps these three gabby politicians would like to think—an expression of realpolitik; they are a dangerous misinterpretation of the role the courts play in democracy.

Gonzalez assumes that some kind of insidious lobbying takes place outside of the Supreme Court's rather elaborate and pointedly deliberative process; Defensor assumes that appointments to the high court are essentially, irreducibly political, with appointees expected to favor the appointing power. They are both wrong, and dangerously so.

By constitutional design, the judiciary is insulated from politics; it is the one branch of government that is expected to make decisions based not on public opinion or political considerations—the province of the legislature and the executive—but on facts and the law.

Two other misinterpretations are also dangerously mistaken.

It is wrong to read the latest decision as the work of eight patriots outvoting seven judges who weren't (as some anti-Charter change advocates have unfairly suggested). We see absolutely no evidence that any of the 15 justices lack a robust sense of patriotism; in fact, reading most of the dissenting opinions, we readily find that the same civic virtues, the same deep sense of public service, animated the positions of the justices who dissented. We may not agree, for instance, with some of Senior Associate Justice Reynato Puno's conclusions, such as the notion that the proposed constitutional amendments, because they involve only one of the three "sets of provisions" in constitution-making, do not constitute substantial change; but who can fail to be unmoved by the long study and sense of citizenship that went into his opinion?

It is also wrong to assume (as Sigaw ng Bayan's Raul Lambino suggested) that because the Supreme Court is not a trier of facts it should close its eyes to reality. Justice's blindfold is a symbol of impartiality; it is not a license for those who come before the court to play fast and loose with the facts.

These misinterpretations—that the high court's deliberative process is ultimately political, that last week's vote was a defining exercise in patriotism, that the Supreme Court oversteps its constitutional boundaries when it takes judicial cognizance of plain reality—all undermine the high court's place in our democratic project. Of the three, politicization is the worst offender, because it subverts the judiciary's very nature—not in one swoop, but slowly, in small doses of political poison.

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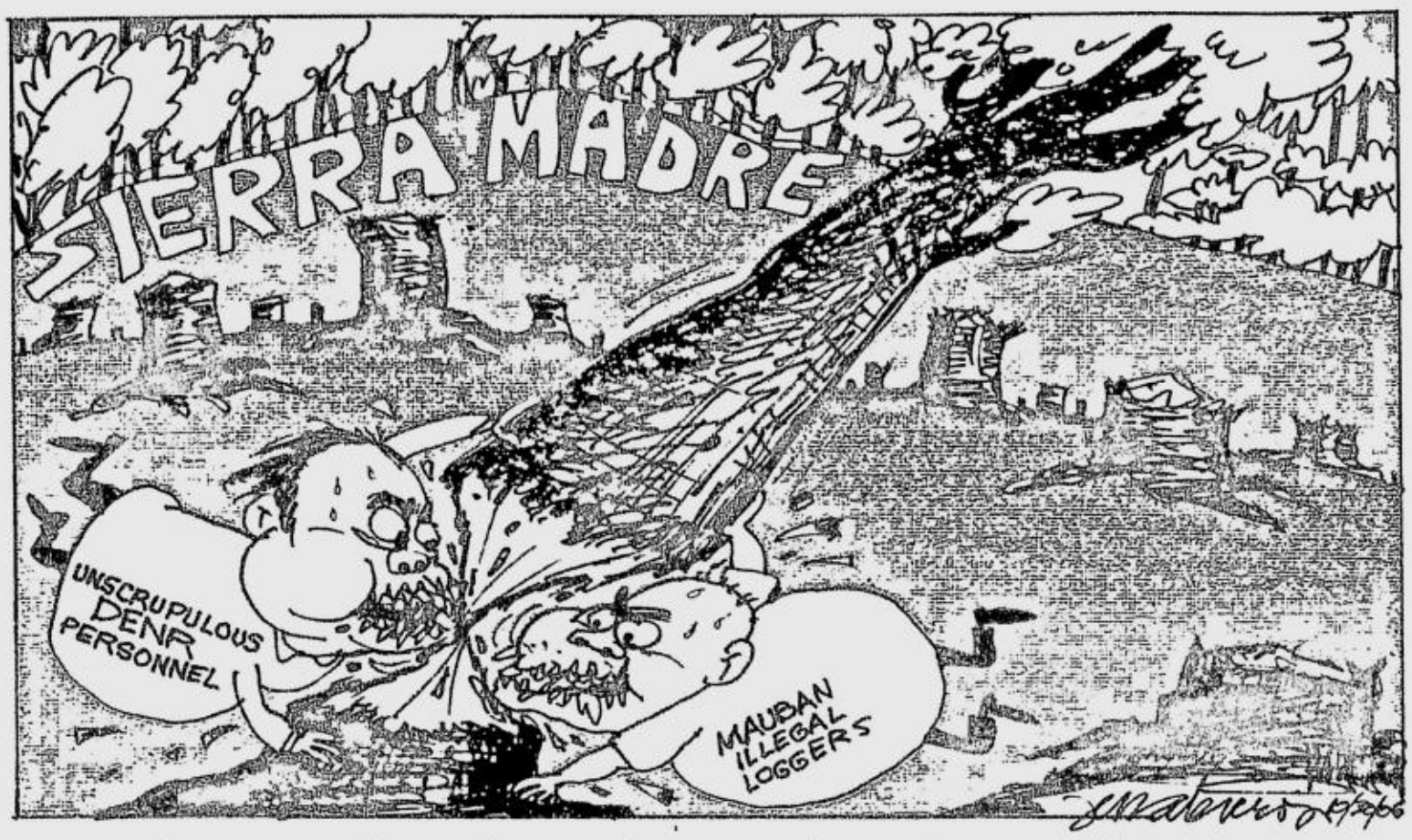

Ghosts, ghouls and gremlins for Halloween

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TOMORROW BEING HALLOWEEN, WITH ghosts, ghouls, gremlins and other denizens of the underworld coming out to haunt the world of the living, let me introduce to the young people of today—who are now used to the jack-o-lanterns and witches flying on broomsticks of the commercialized Western world—the mythological monsters of yesteryears that used to terrorize us kids. The place where I grew up, although now a crowded part of Metro Manila, used to be a rustic village with plenty of fishponds, fields and meadows, and two rivers crisscrossing it. The houses were far apart and the boys would get together in school or—after classes and during weekends—in the meadows; or, in the evenings, under a street lamppost, either to play or to tell stories.

The stories were very tall ones, we know now, but we believed them back then because the storytellers were the adults—men, women and older boys. The stories were invariably about ghosts and ghouls, and because the experiences were supposedly those of people we know, the tall tales gained an aura of authenticity.

After the storytelling, when it was time to go home late in the night, we small kids screwed up our courage to walk the dark homeward paths, afraid to meet one or more of the monsters we just heard about.

Who or what were those monsters of yesteryears?

The first that we expected to encounter was the *kapre*, a giant who supposedly inhabited a big tree in the neighborhood. He would sit on top of the tree smoking a big cigar, so we were told.

There was the *manananggal*, a woman with bat-like wings, whose upper torso, at sunset, would separate from the lower torso (from the waist down) and fly away to look for victims. It had to rejoin her lower torso before sunrise or she would not be whole again. The way to combat the *manananggal* was to look for the lower torso and sprinkle salt and garlic on it so that the upper torso would no longer be able to reattach itself to it.

Then there was the *dwende*, or dwarf. There were two kinds of *dwendes*, the good one who could give you wealth and good health, and the bad one who could bring you bad luck.

There was the *tiyanak*, which masqueraded as a baby and lured its victims by crying like a baby. When the would-be victim would start to look for the crying baby, the *tiyanak* would lure him deeper and deeper into the woods with its cries until he would get lost and couldn't get out of the woods. The way to break the spell was to take off one's shirt and put it back on inside out.

Another dwarf was the *nuno sa punso*, literally, the old man of the mound. It was supposed to be invisible and was said to inhabit the termite mounds in fields and meadows. Step on the mound or even brush against one, and you were in for trouble. You could get sick or have painful boils and bumps in your body. To avoid earning the ire of the *nuno sa punso* when we were in the woods, we would ask his permission to walk through by repeatedly reciting in Tagalog: "Beg your pardon, grandpa, may we pass pass by; we cannot see you."

Then there was the *tikbalang*, half human, half horse. It was not a bad banana like most of the others, but meeting one was enough to scare one out of his wits.

The most common monster was the *aswang*. It could take on many forms—a big dog, pig or any other animal, on the prowl for unborn babies to eat. In the old days, whenever there was a pregnant woman in the neighborhood, the men organized themselves into patrols to guard against *aswangs*. Woe to any pig or dog that blundered into wandering under the house of a pregnant woman.

Sometimes, the *aswang* would climb onto the roof of a house, and then through a hole in the thatched nipa shingles, lower a piece of string to the mouth of a sleeping person and poison him. Because of this, people slept face down.

The most effective weapon against the *aswang* was the *buntot-page*, the barbed tail of the stingray (the same weapon that killed Australian Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin) or the "sword" of the swordfish. Hitting an *aswang* with either of these weapons was enough to get her back into her real human form.

The *mangkukulam* was, of course, the witch, except that in our barrio it didn't wear pointed hats and fly on broomsticks. But it could easily cast its spell just by looking at you. In our barrio then, there was a family whose members were reputed to be witches. How did we know if a person was a witch? When he had red eyes. And when you looked at him and he met your gaze, you'd fall under his spell. We therefore tried to avoid the members of that family. Unfortunately, they owned the *sari-sari* store in the village and when we were told to buy something from that store, we kept our eyes downcast to avoid their gaze. I wonder now if they were aware of their reputation in that village then.

Then, of course, there were the *multos*, or ghosts, which were supposed to be the souls of the departed who had not found peace in the other world. They would come back to our world, usually at this time, during Halloween and All Saints' Day, for some unfinished business—say, an unsolved murder, or a message that they want to impart to their respective families.

The *multo* could take on many forms, too, rarely like Casper, the friendly ghost. Sometimes it could be just a voice in the dark, or banging doors and windows, or creaking floors, or lights that flick on and off, or rustlings, the sound of chains being dragged on the floor, a faded image on a photograph, a figure on a leaf, a black butterfly flying inside the house, the howling of dogs—almost anything out of the ordinary that a fertile imagination could concoct into a ghost.

But here's the strangest part: In this modern age, many supposedly sensible, educated adults still believe in ghosts.

Footnote to a farce

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE DISINFORMATION WAS FLYING THICK and fast Tuesday night. I got a number of text messages saying the idiotically named "Sigaw ng Bayan"—"Sigaw ni Joe" was more like it—had prospered, the Supreme Court voting to give it life near the Day of the Dead 10-5. Weeks ago, a friend had told me he had it on good authority that the justices were near-unanimous in their detestation of it. I wondered what had happened. I was tempted to call him until I got conflicting messages about the figures. The messages clearly carried the imprint of government's (and its allies') favorite pastime, which is lying. I figured I'd wait.

Up until the morning of Wednesday, friends of mine were texting me angrily that the justices had lived up, or down, to public distrust, as revealed by the SWS a couple of days earlier—the public apparently did not think the Supreme Court would vote right on this wrong—and felt oppressed by it. But if Sigaw's proponents thought they could railroad the Court by this ruse, well, maybe they didn't completely think wrong. I was under the impression the voting would not be close at all, and 8-7 is as close (a shave) as it comes. But in a democracy, whatever remains of it in this country, the embers now feebly glowering in a cold wind, all it takes is 50 percent plus one to carry a vote.

It's not 15-0, as was the case with 1017, EO 464 and CPR, but I'll take it. Which brings me to the same two points I raised when the Supreme Court voted to put an end to those wretched impositions—or at least put a legal barrier against them as it hasn't really stopped them—some months ago.

The first is a deep appreciation of what it has done. I did wonder at one point if the cynical predictions by some friends that Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban would crumble at crunch time—his position on 1017, etc. apparently being merely an attempt to score points with the public so that he could uphold Charter change later on—would come true. Panganiban has debunked that completely. Call it principle, call it keeping an eye to posterity, call it even political ambition, I don't mind. In these days where counting blessings instead of sheep can keep you awake all night as you will scarcely be able to use all your fingers, I'll take that blessing with much gratefulness and gratitude.

Doubly so in light of the pressures Joe de V and GMA put to bear on the justices. Not least through (expensive) full-page newspaper ads cajoling them to heed their cry. I wonder where they got the money. Though while at this, I'm not so sure that GMA's heart was really into it. Her endorsement of their cause looked more like a quid pro quo for the things they had done for her, but she didn't particularly care whether the "quo" was forthcoming or not. Why should she? She has three more years, barring the citizens' sudden recovery of their wits or moral values, whichever they've lost more, to look for options to extend power. Oh, yes, she will. So why should she be anxious to pave the way for Joe de V to barge into Malacañang with a welcome mat waiting at the end of it?

But the pressure was still tremendous, and for that the justices who stood their ground deserve utmost commendation. Panganiban has already scored 4-0 against Malacañang, a thing nobody seriously thought possible. He has, not a little surprisingly, turned the Supreme Court into a bulwark of sanity amid the swirling madness. That Court now stands as a formidable obstacle against the tyrannical manipulations of the thuggish minds in GMA's Palace and Joe de V's House.

That brings me to the second point, which is how we've allowed ourselves to reach such a desperate pass—just doing the right thing, the sane thing, the commonsensical thing now takes on the aspect of epic heroism. The Supreme Court ruling, apparently penned by Antonio Carpio, trenchantly called the Cha-cha bid a "fraud" and resolved that the justices would not allow themselves to be used in a "grand deception" of the people. I grant that calls for applause, but does that really say anything the public does not already know? Or know beyond any shadow of doubt? But of course, it is a grand deception, the *sigaw* emanating only from the pit of the congressmen's fevered brains. Or, as Jejomar Binay pointed out, from the hollow spaces deep beneath Makati's cemeteries, with many of its Sigaw petition's signatories currently and permanently residing there.

There was never any argument about Cha-cha's merits or lack of them. It was just a crass attempt by a selfish few to bend the country to their will, no more and no less than Malacañang's attempt to unseat Binay presumably for hiring ghost employees. It wasn't a question of law, it was a question of force. It wasn't a question of wit, it was a question of will. It wasn't a question of discernment, it was a question of fortitude. There was nothing there to resolve with the head, there was everything there to resolve with the heart. Thankfully, the Court did the right thing, the sane thing, the commonsensical thing.

But that still leaves us with the question: Are we simply going to be content fending off the mind-boggling exactions of this government? Are we simply going to be content preventing GMA from unleashing 1017, EO 464, CPR, Cha-cha and whatever new Halloween horror enters her head? Are we simply going to plunge into drunken revelry and toast to our victories after stopping this government from ousting a duly elected mayor, scrapping a duly constituted Constitution and massacring duly instituted journalists and political activists? Has that become the *summum bonum* of our existence? Has that become the supreme expression of our national ambition?

Or will we go further and do something about the source of the bane?

The Sigaw case (3)

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

IF YOU LISTEN TO THE ADVOCATES OF change, what you will hear are predictions of doom if we fail to pass the constitutional changes they are advocating. We hear phrases like, "This is our last chance," "We will never make progress if we fail to achieve change," "We will be the next Bangladesh if we stay with the present system." I believe that the best way of dealing with this type of rhetoric is to look at the concrete changes they are proposing and to see what in them will lead us to the Promised Land.

Let us take a look at the draft which Sigaw ng Bayan attached to its Supreme Court petition. Never mind that it is not clear whether the versions they submitted to the Comelec and the Supreme Court are the same as the one they asked the people to affix their signatures to. We will assume that this is the draft to which the people affixed their signatures, the draft which they claim will save the nation from perdition.

I have been teaching Constitutional Law for about 35 years now and I think my readers will credit me at least with possessing some facility in reading constitutional law literature. Whenever I try to figure out what Sigaw's draft for a new Constitution is saying, I must confess that I have difficulty in navigating through it. If I'm having a problem figuring what it's saying, how much more the ordinary Filipino who does not eat Constitutional Law for breakfast, lunch and dinner like I do.

The draft is very sloppily done. We need not even talk of intentional deception—even if in fact the text is deceiving. I suspect that the authors of the proposal were aware that initiative and referendum as a mode of changing the Constitution is allowed to handle only amendments and not revision. I also suspect that they could also sense that what they were proposing was not a mere amendment but a revision. Hence, they had to look for a way of packaging their proposal in a manner that they hoped could disguise the proposed revision as a mere amendment. They did this by attempting to give the impression that all they wanted was to change Article VI on the Legislature and Article VII, the article on the Executive Department. No other article is mentioned except the Transitory Provisions.

What they came out with, in fact, is not a complete document but a draft, mainly of instructions for revising the present Constitution toward a unicameral parliamentary system—with the aid of a pair of scissors. Thus, for the Legislature, they simply drafted a set of instructions which in Sec. 2 equivalently says: "Ladies and gentlemen, take out your scissors and open to Article VI. Cut out Secs. 18 and 24, retain everything else, but wherever the words 'Senate,' or 'House of Representatives' or 'House of Congress' appear, replace them with 'Parliament.' Next, if you find any reference to 'Member of Congress' or 'Senator' or 'Member of the House of Representatives,' replace it with 'Member of Parliament.' Retain everything else, but—and this is important—if you find anything 'inconsistent with the Parliamentary system of government ... they will be amended to conform with a unicameral and parliamentary form of government.'"

As for the Executive Department, the instruction in Sec. 3 goes this way: "Ladies and gentlemen, open your copy of the Constitution to Article VII, hold on to your scissors, cut out Secs. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, retain everything else, but wherever the words 'President' and 'Acting President' appear, replace them with 'Prime Minister.' But if you think that any of what remains is inconstant with a parliamentary system, it will be amended."

But you might ask, "Who will identify the possible inconsistencies with a parliamentary system and who will do the amending?" The answer to this question is in Sec. 4(2) of the proposed article on the Transitory Provisions, which says: "Within forty-five days from ratification of these amendments, the interim Parliament shall convene to propose amendments to, or revisions of, this Constitution consistent with the principles of local autonomy, decentralization and a strong bureaucracy."

In other words, what is being proposed is not yet the final document. So, what the heck have we been fighting about? Moreover, we know from Tolentino vs Comelec, a 1971 decision, that the Constitution does not allow proposal of an incomplete document. An incomplete document does not give you a context for evaluation.

With these two instructions you now have the core, an incomplete core, of a unicameral parliamentary system. Let us take a closer look at both the parliamentarism and unicameralism being proposed.

What is the essence of parliamentarism? The essence of a parliamentary system is the vesting of both the executive and the legislative powers in Parliament. The Parliament chooses the prime minister from among themselves. The Parliament chooses the Cabinet from among its members. The prime minister and the Cabinet remain as long as they enjoy the confidence of the Parliament.

In standard parliamentary systems, the prime minister may be removed by the Parliament through a no-confidence vote. In the initiative proposal, there is mention of the election of a prime minister but there is no mention of a no-confidence vote. We do not, therefore, know how a prime minister may be removed once he is elected. Perhaps, this too will be solved by the provision already quoted, which requires Parliament to propose amendment and revision within 45 days.

(To be continued)

Unite or perish!

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

ONE GOOD NEWS THAT CAME RIGHT AFTER Ramadan was the result of a very recent survey which showed that more than 60 percent of Filipinos think that Muslims are "trustworthy." However, that such a survey was made only underscores the reality that a schism exists between the Christians and Muslims of this country.

Why is this so, why should this be so? Must we allow this sorry state of things to continue? Until when? How can this be resolved?

These were some of the questions Korina Sanchez and her guests tried to answer in her daily show on ANC, "Korina Today." Unfortunately, although she had excellent guests—Datu Jamal Ashley Abbas, lawyer Adel Tamano, Prof. Julkipli Wadi and a Muslim convert, Muhammad Isa Vergel de Dios—one hour was simply too short a time to satisfactorily discuss the complex issues that have mystified the government for decades.

Too complex indeed are the issues that unless they are addressed at the very core—which is the legitimate and valid grievance of the Muslims over a blatantly unjust historical wrong—no one-hour show, not even countless peace talks, and certainly not "all-out" wars, can solve the so-called "Mindanao problem."

Why not? Because the truth is, we Moros or Muslims or by whatever name you wish to call us, are not the problem.

The survey results also came after the MILF-GRP peace negotiations got snagged on the issue of ancestral domain, and after MILF Chair Al-Haj Murad was charged with murder in connection with the bombings in Central Mindanao. The charge has since been dropped but it undeniably disrupted the climate of trust that is sine qua non to any successful peace negotiation.

But then the attitude of both the government and a great number of Christian Filipinos toward the Moros has always been characterized by ambivalence: inclusion-exclusion; equality-discrimination; trust-distrust; acceptance-denial; oneness-otherness; unity-dichotomy.

Among Philippine presidents, only one, Ferdinand Marcos, fully understood this problem. But in restoring the historical rights of the Muslims which he, the brilliant lawyer that he was, knew could be defended in any world court, he did not want this to result in the "marginalization" of the Christian majority. "*Isang bansa, isang diwa,*" remember? It was a tightrope act, a lonely vision, and he was ridiculed for it.

There is, to begin with, the acrimonious issue of ancestral domain. There are enough documents to prove that the entire archipelago, now named after an unremarkable despotic monarch of the country that held it in bondage for almost four centuries, was an Islamic country, and therefore the ancestral domain of Muslims. Just because the majority of its inhabitants were Christianized by conquest does not negate that historical right.

But then there ensued the greatest land-grabbing heist in recent history, worse than that inflicted by the Europeans on the natives of America: First by the Spanish colonizers who issued land titles left and right to their favored *insulares*, collaborators and *parochias*.

Then after buying from the Spaniards what was not theirs to sell, the Americans felt free to award choice tracts of land to their compatriots and to American companies. Landless farmers were shipped from Luzon to Mindanao, giving them lands of their own to till. This massive land-grabbing was continued by the Commonwealth government through its "homestead" program.

And now to complete the marginalization of the Moros, a sovereign people, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's government is deathly determined to con the nation into changing the Constitution, come hell or high water, defying the Commission on Elections, the Supreme Court (both junked her "people's initiative") and God Himself.

This "constitution" that her Congress, as a constituent assembly, will inflict on us, will allow foreigners to own lands to ensure the success of her "mega-regions" scheme, in which Mindanao will be the agricultural zone. There will be massive disenfranchisement of the Moros and the indigenous peoples who, for their own survival, will be forever and hopelessly tied in perpetual bondage to the soil, to produce the raw materials for multinational companies; with the remaining land to be ravished by mining concessionaires.

Her recently appointed generals have vowed that they will maintain "peace and order" in the mega-regions. I shudder at the thought.

Tamano, on Korina's show, bewailed the disunity among the Muslims, as a consequence of which, he said, they have "no bargaining power." I remember distinctly what the late Solicitor General Francis Garchitorena told me when we met at the Garden Orchid Hotel in Zamboanga City in 2002. He was guest speaker at a gathering of government accountants. I was attending a workshop on federalism where Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and Dr. Michael Mastura were the resource persons.

"We're plotting to free ourselves from imperial Manila," I told him.

"You mean you have made up with the Maranaos?" he countered. "*Naku, walang mangyayari diyan*. Not with this administration, not with any administration. Look at the ARMM. This is my unsolicited advice—unite or perish."

Brothers and sisters, we who are now under suspicion as "terrorists," "jihadists" and "Islamic extremists," in a country that proudly calls itself "the only Christian country in Southeast Asia," would do well to heed that advice and "hold the rope" as one—in rejecting, with all our might, the Arroyo constitution.

* * *

Comments to rubaiyat19@yahoo.com

Memorial landscape

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

AS A YOUNG BOY, MY FATHER WOULD TAKE ME on what he called "pilgrimages." Our first was to the Barasoain Church, where he proudly told me to look at the plaque listing the delegates to the Malolos Congress, and see for myself "how many names are still familiar to us in our national life."

The second was to the Aguinaldo Mansion in Kawit, where I climbed to the very top of the tower of the House, and a granddaughter of the general showed us around. Finally, we ended up in the garden, gazing at the white marble tomb of Emilio Aguinaldo, and we said a short prayer for the repose of his soul.

There would be other pilgrimages, but the first pilgrimage I remember and the pilgrimage that we always undertook, year after year, was the most personal pilgrimage of all: to the North Cemetery. Among my earliest memories are the visits to the family plot where my grandfather was first buried, before his remains were moved to the Quezon Memorial in 1979. From an early age, I was reminded and told of the history that surrounded us, that was part of us, and so close to us. Across our family plot was the tomb—at that time still identical to my grandfather's—of President Manuel Roxas.

On the way to our family plot, of course, were the tombs of the famous and the great; tombs my father would point out as worthy of veneration and visit. This is how I learned about the lives of many people those of my age no longer know about: Quintin Paredes, Sergio Osmeña, Ramon Magsaysay, the boy scouts who died in a plane crash on their way to a jamboree; the veterans of the Revolution; and later, shortly before my father passed away, Francis Burton Harrison, American governor general and later, Filipino citizen.

Some years back, Araw Magazine approached me to write an article on the North Cemetery. A problem immediately came to the fore. A place I know—and in a strange way, I have even come to love—is, for most Filipinos, terra incognita. How many Filipinos are aware that while the Libingan ng mga Bayani is supposed to be Arlington Cemetery of the Philippines, there are more famous men and women buried in a public cemetery belonging to the City of Manila? How to turn what would otherwise be a boring tour—for much as I hate it, the fact is most Filipinos my age don't give a damn about our past—into an interesting endeavor.

For that article, I took the famed Spirit Questors on a five-hour tour of the cemetery. To wrap things up, I then asked them what their impressions were.

One told me that she didn't realize such a place existed. Another said, with some awe, that he had no idea so many well-known personages were in one cemetery. Everyone knew of the Libingan ng mga Bayani, but who would think that here, in a public cemetery, would be the great and the well-known; and a wide variety of tombs, from the magnificent to the humble, to the occult and to the purely religious, could be found?

They said it was a voyage of discovery for them; I thanked them. They seemed pleased to have literally been able to touch history. The shoddily repainted Mausoleum of the Veterans of the Revolution particularly impressed them. Over the years, this, one of the oldest and most striking of the structures in the cemetery, has been emptied of many of its famous dead; its noble architecture marred by slipshod paint jobs over the past few years.

The Mausoleum, a box-like structure with a dome underneath of which is a patterned floor, much damaged, heavily scarred and very badly patched up with cheap cement, is full of occult symbols. This was appropriate for a turn of the century structure constructed when Freemasonry was still a potent force in the country, and many of whose members were leaders of the Revolution. Naturally the Spirit Questors found the Mausoleum fascinating.

In the years since then, the North Cemetery has gained renewed fame as Fernando Poe Jr.'s burial place. And Carlos Celdran has conducted tours of the cemetery from time to time. There is a slow and unnoticed exodus of remains taking place, as those laid to rest there are being transferred by the government or their families to other places; some of the most famous mausoleums have changed ownership or have even been demolished.

For those interested in architecture, history and the culture that surrounds the dead, as well as the annual memorializing of the departed undertaken by the living, a visit to the North Cemetery is instructive. Though beyond sight-seeing, there's a sentimental task that I think is worth considering.

Not everyone buried in the cemetery still have relatives who are concerned with maintaining the tombs; and so, even as people find time to visit their dead, there are the dead with no one left to visit them. A few minutes' pause at such tombs, to read the names of the dead and reflect on the period in which they lived, is to my mind a noteworthy gesture to make.

* * *

I'd like to thank reader Leni Alano from Basilan, who discovered, in the photo album of her parents (Juan and Ramona Alano) a photograph of Quezon tapping a rubber tree during a visit to Basilan. To Leni, I'm very grateful for the copy of the photo you sent, and your kind note.

Referring to the time the photo was taken, Leni recalls: "Basilan then was one of the country's biggest rubber and copra producers. As a child, I remember foreign ships coming to Basilan to pick up rubber and copra. These were shipped directly to Europe and the Americas, and the plantations thrived and prospered. Those were golden days for the producer farmers ... until Marcos set up the monopolies."

* * *

Tomorrow on "The Explainer," 6-7 p.m. on ANC, our topic is embalming. Everything you wanted to know about it but were too squeamish to ask

Education today, wealth tomorrow

(Excerpts from a speech delivered at the 37th Annual Finance Executives Conference held last Oct. 27, 2006.)

COMMENTARY

Ma. Cecilia L. Alcantara

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A BIG OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE a difference, then you must first and foremost look for a big problem.

A recent article titled "A Nation in Crisis: The Pitfalls and Prospects of Reforming Philippine Education," which was published in The Educator, says, "Considered a basic human right, education is mandated by the law to be subsidized by government up to the secondary school levels. But given government's limited budget and the already gargantuan task of providing enough classrooms, teachers and textbooks for some 18 million students a year, we have failed to address the need to provide **quality** education."

Out of 100 pupils enrolled in Grade 1, only 65 will complete Grade 6. From these, only 57 will enroll in high school and only 42 of them will graduate. More than twice as many boys drop out at this level than girls.

Twenty-three out of 42 high school graduates will go to college, but only 14 will graduate, and only two will earn a science degree.

As you can plainly see, as far as big problems go, the public school system presents us with an immense opportunity to make a difference.

How has the private sector responded thus far?

In June of this year, on the same day that the League of Corporate Foundations kicked off our CSR Expo 2006 event, the INQUIRER referred to private sector involvement as the brightest spot in Philippine public education. Every year, the records show that the private sector has poured literally billions of pesos into education. Many of our members and friends in the private sector have taken an education-focused Corporate Social Responsibility to heart. But clearly, one very important question remains: What results in terms of quality education do we have to show today?

We have had many creative and sophisticated programs that serve as "best practices," but these have often been very difficult to replicate and scale up.

Input indicators are recorded and reported all the time: amount of resources spent, number of classrooms constructed, number of teachers trained, number of scholars assisted. After all, we in the private sector have been trained to always ensure healthy bottom lines so we can continuously monitor the return on our investments in education.

A lot has been said about the importance of the youth in nation-building. Our commitment to educating our youth has been articulated just as much. However, it seems that little has been done to transform that commitment into a viable educational system—one that responds to the need for high-quality education for all our children.

Considering that today's youth are tomorrow's work force, market, entrepreneurs, parents, citizens, CEOs, CFOs, wealth creators and leaders, then investing in their education today will translate to wealth-creation tomorrow. In the parlance of business, investing in quality education for the Filipino child today pays off big time. However, our children are not learning as much as they should. Many high school students can hardly read or write. They are grossly unprepared to cope with the practicalities of daily life. To succeed in today's competitive global economy, they need advanced skills.

Studies show a direct link between education and income. The chances for gainful employment and better work opportunities increase as an individual's education level rises.

Admittedly, our efforts thus far continue to take varied directions, never quite achieving the kind of forceful cohesion that makes an impact on a national scale.

How then do we collectively make a real difference? We can begin by supporting the private-public partnership for education that the LCF and a host of other private organizations are currently organizing together with Education Secretary Jesli Lapus. Last Sept. 20, we re-launched the Adopt-a-School program together with the Department of Education.

Along with that, we unveiled the "57-75" framework, which aims to raise the national achievement average from its present failing level to a passing mark—from 57 percent to 75 percent within the next five years.

The bottom line we want to see every school year is that of students who are actually and measurably doing better in school. The numbers "57" and "75" symbolize our goal to move from mediocrity to excellence.

This unprecedented partnership between the private sector and the DepEd has been working out so well that for the first time in recent DepEd memory—and perhaps even in this nation's history—we shall soon have a joint national office/secretariat for Private-Public Sector Partnership for Education Reform.

Most encouraging, we now have the full support of multilateral and donor agencies for our efforts in education reform. We are in serious talks with the World Bank, Australia AID and other agencies from across Asia, America and Europe over how we can all work together toward ensuring quality education for all.

In the many discussions—and arguments—we have had on education quality, perhaps one of the toughest questions to answer came from former Education Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad. He wanted to know: Who becomes accountable for attaining the 75 passing grade? The students? The teachers? The principals? The superintendents? The regional directors? The secretary of education? My answer: all of us! Not just some of us, but every one of us brave and caring enough to want to make a real difference.

Let me paraphrase a few lines from our Coke Barkada jingle: "*Sama ka, wag magpaiwan! Kung manalo, eh di masaya. Kung matalo, may next time pa. Pangarap, 'wag bitawan. Sama-sama, Salu-salo. 57-75...Kaya natin 'to!*" (Join us, don't be left behind. If we win, then we celebrate. If we lose, well, there's always a next time. The dream, don't let go of the dream. Let us be together, let's share. 57-75...this is within our reach.)

Ma. Cecilia L. Alcantara is the president and executive director of Coca-Cola Foundation and sits in the LCF Advisory Council. She is also a board member of the Association of Foundations and the Philippine Council for NGO Certification.

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Victims' folks doubt Melo Commission

THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO FIND OUR daughters Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño who were abducted in Bulacan on June 26, 2006. They have been missing for almost four months now.

We have witnesses and strong evidence that point to the military as the perpetrator. That was why we filed a habeas corpus petition. It was only in the fifth hearing, after a warning that he could be cited for contempt, that Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan finally attended the hearing—but that is another story.

The head of state and commander in chief has not lifted a finger to help the families of the victims of "forced disappearances" to find our missing loved ones. Neither has she taken effective and pro-active measures to prevent forced disappearances.

President Macapagal-Arroyo created the Melo Commission last Aug. 21, purportedly to investigate the spate of extrajudicial killings in the country. The commission assured the public that it would also investigate forced disappearances.

Yes, we had reservations about participating in the Melo Commission's "investigation" because (1) certain stakeholders, such as the victims' families and human rights groups, were not consulted; (2) it was not clear and transparent about its procedures; (3) we were not assured that our witnesses would be protected; (4) we doubted its independence and its ability to render justice; and (5) it seemed that it was created only for appearances—what with Ms Arroyo's dubious mandate—to calm the concerns of the international community.

We gave it the benefit of the doubt, though, and waited for it to change its composition and disregard the report of the highly distrusted Task Force Usig. But the commission committed another fatal error when it told INQUIRER reporter Fe Zamora that it sent us an invitation and that we snubbed its hearings. (PDI, 10/4/06)

For the record, from the time the Melo Commission was created, we did not receive any formal invitation from that body. If it could lie about that, we are sure that it can lie in its report on the involvement of the military and the Arroyo regime in the political killings, forced disappearances and other human rights violations.

—ERLINDA CADAPAN AND CONCEPCION EMPEÑO, mothers of missing UP students, c/o karapatan.pid@gmail.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Hand-washing with safe water prevents spread of neonatal sepsis

GRAM NEGATIVE ORGANISMS are the major cause of neonatal sepsis. Safe water used in hand washing is the single most important measure for preventing or controlling the spread of neonatal sepsis in hospitals.

Periodic decontamination of environmental surfaces, as well as medical equipment and devices, is of utmost importance to prevent infection and spread of the disease.

The Board of Sanitary Engineering of the Professional Regulation Commission, chaired by Florencio G. Cunanan, has released the parameters for hospital sanitation.

If the Rizal Medical Center and all hospitals will observe the parameters on hospital sanitation directed by the board, no newborn child will die from neonatal sepsis.

—ROSALIE ADIGUE, rosalie_adigue@yahoo.com

Nothing personal, Your Honor

INTO THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF Isagani Cruz's column, "The blight of billboards" (PDI, 10/21/06), I was getting ready to stand up and applaud the retired Supreme Court justice, whose sentiments about billboards I share completely. However, after reading the very last sentence, I didn't end up clapping; I ended up dropping my arms in disbelief, dismay, disgust.

It was unkind of Cruz to have made a very spiteful comment about the model on an insurance company's billboards. Why did he have to presume that the man with a "commonplace face" probably thought that he had "the same magnetism as a seductive starlet"? Why that uncalled-for nastiness in a column that otherwise would have been a strong educative write-up? Was Cruz jealous and very resentful that it was not his face on display on those towering billboards?

It was sad that Cruz, who's supposedly very learned and wise, abused and misused his considerable journalistic power, using precious space to insult another person just for the heck of it.

—CLAUDE LUCAS C. DESPABILADERAS, claudelucas2003@yahoo.com

Errors in Pag-Ibig records

IT HAS BEEN FOUR years and seven months since I became a regular employee of the Department of Labor and Employment.

On June 8, 2006, I filed my Membership Status Verification Sheet (MSVS) with the satellite office of the Home Development and Mutual Fund (HDMF) in Calamba to avail myself of a housing loan. I have completed all the requirements for such loan and that office has issued a certification on my Pag-Ibig contributions for the last two years.

However, when I followed up the status of my application, I was told that I have not made any contributions for March to June of this year. So, in July 14, 2006, I submitted a copy of the official receipt and the list of employees, with my name on it, whose salaries were deducted for Pag-Ibig contributions.

Months have passed and I have been waiting for the approval of my housing loan only to find out that the San Pablo branch of HDMF has disapproved my application because, it explained, my contributions are not enough to qualify me for a housing loan. During follow-ups, I have been told that my records in HDMF's East Avenue office and San Pablo branch have irreconcilable discrepancies.

I strongly feel that I should not be denied of my right to secure a housing loan. After all, my monthly salary is deducted a certain amount for my Pag-Ibig contribution. Why should I be penalized for the error HDMF committed? Can't the agency make the proper corrections? I hope it has the capability to reconcile its records. And I hope that in my case it makes the correction while I am still young and capable of paying for the loan.

—MARJORIE H. ARCEBUCHE, DOLE Region 4-A, 3F Andenson Bldg. II, Barangay Parian, Calamba City, Laguna

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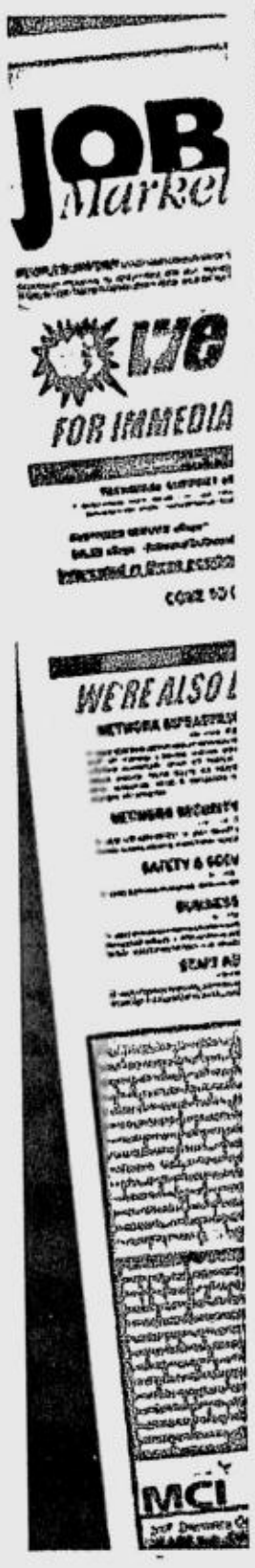

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Truck rams vehicles; 17 dead, 14 hurt

RESIDENTS look at the wrecked vehicles hit by a 10-wheeler truck that crashed into revelers gathered for a festival along the national highway in Makilala, North Cotabato on Saturday afternoon.
JEOFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

KIDAPAWAN CITY—SEVENTEEN PERSONS DIED AND 14 others were wounded when a dump truck rammed at least 10 vehicles and barangay fiesta revelers in Makilala, North Cotabato on Saturday afternoon, according to Makilala Mayor Honofre Respicio.

Makilala police chief Insp. Reynaldo Donor said the truck, loaded with gravel and driven by Florendo Rondina of Matanao, Davao del Sur, lost its brakes.

"Apparently, the driver panicked and did not know what to do," Anthony Cruz, driver of another vehicle that managed to avoid collision with the wayward dump truck.

"I noticed the driver was honking his horn very loud to warn people that something was wrong with his vehicle," he recalled. "Suddenly, the truck started plowing into parked vehicles," he added.

North Cotabato police director Senior Supt. Federico Dulay said people in Barangay Malasila were celebrating their fiesta when the accident happened.

"There were many people along the highway because it was the village fiesta," Dulay told the INQUIRER.

The truck also hit some of the people who were watching a basketball game in a court near the highway.

One of the vehicles that the truck hit was a multi-cab loaded with members of the Central Mindanao's search and rescue team.

The truck bumped the multicab from behind, sending it upside down resulting to the death of PO3 Ronnie Acod of the Kidapawan City police. Also killed were Jonathan Narpia, a radiologist of the Kidapawan Medical Specialist Hospital, Lovely Ipogon, Nelson Puertoliano, Perdo Wakan, Rolando Cadungog, Manuel Cerenia, Ramil Uy, Sonia Undap, Jeralyn Mandiala, Nenita Mandiala, Trinidad Dayo, Epefania Cabrera, Richard Tabanao and Merci Pangot. Two others remained unidentified.

Among the injured was SPO1 Jose Marie Corpuz Molina, trainer of the region's search and rescue unit. His group had just come from Le Reve, a known swimming resort in Makilala, and was heading for home when the freak accident occurred. Four others remained in critical condition at the Kidapawan City Medical Hospital, according to Respicio. *Edwin Fernandez and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

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FREE DEMO

Rights groups remember victims of martial law, political killings

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

JAVIER

ILOILO CITY—FORMER political detainees and human rights groups on Saturday gathered at the Monument of Heroes at the Plaza Libertad here to remember those who died fighting martial law and the growing number of victims of political killings.

The "Luksang Bayan" held ahead of the observance of All Souls Day this week was attended by about 50 friends, relatives and colleagues of the victims.

They lit candles, offered flowers and sang nationalist songs as they gathered at the foot of the eight-foot-tall and six-foot-wide monument near the center of the historic plaza. They later shared snacks comprising of sandwiches and juice in tetra packs.

The names of the 405 peasant leaders, students, rebels and opposition figures on Panay Island who died fighting the Marcos dictatorship and in succeeding years were painted on red strips of cloth and hung beside the monument.

Among the names were former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier, guerrilla leader Coronacion "Waling-Waling" Chiva, Ateneo student leader Ferdinand "Freddy" Arceo and peasant leader Valeriano Caro.

"Their deaths will never go unremembered because they died not just for their families but for our people," said lawyer Rodolfo Lagoc, who was detained after martial law was declared on Sept. 21, 1972.

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said during the short program that remembering the victims of extra-judicial killings was one way of crying out for justice for the victims.

He noted that more than 760 victims of political killings have occurred since President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001.

He said it was doubtful that the Task Force Usig and the Melo Commission, government-created bodies tasked to investigate the killings of activists, journalists and lawyers, would solve and stop the killings.

"The cries for justice remain unanswered," said Mariano.

He said the continued killings have raised concerns from European governments, international human rights organizations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Anakpawis vice chair Carmen Deunida said the killings should be stopped. "The killings are continuing and there are so many deaths. So many…," she lamented.

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MILF rebels, Army forces clash briefly in peace zone

COTABATO CITY—GOVERNMENT forces and Moro rebels engaged in a brief fighting in Barangay Kuloy, Sharif Aguak town in Maguindanao yesterday morning.

The military said it was investigating the incident as it clearly violates the existing ceasefire agreement and came amid an impasse in the ongoing peace process.

Eid Kabalu, speaking for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), claimed that members of the civilian volunteers' organization (CVO) attacked MILF positions in an area identified by both sides as a buffer zone or peace zone.

Kabalu said the MILF under Commander Abu Rusda noticed at about 7:30 a.m. Army-backed militiamen approaching their positions.

"Upon seeing that the government forces were crossing the buffer zone as they fire their guns, the MILF were forced to return fire," Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

The buffer zone, established by the International Monitoring Team (IMT), the provincial government, and the MILF ceasefire panel, separates the two forces in Barangay Kuloy, scene of bloody skirmishes in July.

The Army's 6th Infantry Division, in a statement, said it was investigating the clash and confirmed nobody was hurt from either side.

The Malaysian-led IMT, under Major Gen. Dato Mohammad Ismael Khan, quickly intervened and prevented what could have been another shooting war between the government troops and MILF forces.

According to an Army source, about 30 MILF fighters harassed the base camp of Bravo Company of the 64th Infantry Battalion.

"The soldiers, recognizing the existing ceasefire accord, simply fired warning shots to push back the approaching rebels," the Army intelligence officer told the INQUIRER.

The trading of bullets lasted for about 30 minutes, the Army officer said.

But Kabalu had another story.

"We were the ones attacked as evidenced by holes and craters created by mortar shells in MILF positions coming from the other side," Kabalu said, adding that the MILF peace panel will file a complaint before the GRP-MILF peace panels. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

Sorsogon folk honor Magsaysay awardee

SORSOGON CITY—PROUD *KABAbayans*, friends and family members feted Eugenia Duran Apostol, the first and only Sorsogon native to have received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, in a testimonial dinner on Saturday evening here.

The dinner, hosted by the Kasanggayahan Foundation Inc. (KFI), should have been part of the culminating activity of the Kasanggayahan festival, an annual celebration marking the foundation of the province.

But after Typhoon "Milenyo" ravaged the province, the festival was cancelled.

The simple dinner was attended by local personalities from the church, civic, business and local governments led by Bishops Arturo Bastes and Jesus Varela, KFI chair Msgr. Francisco Monje, business and civic leader Loida Nicolas-Lewis, Jovic Duran and Bobet Lee.

APOSTOL

In her message, Apostol thanked her *kababayans* for the honor as she recalled an incident which could have totally altered her life.

Had it not been for the kindness of an unknown bus conductor who guided her home when she got lost when she was just about 5 years old, her family had almost given up on her that time.

A daughter of Sorsogon's former representative to the National Assembly, Apostol received the prestigious RM award for journalism, literature and creative communication arts in recognition of her effective use of mass media for the benefit of the general public.

Apostol courageously published Mr. and Ms. magazine, which was critical of the Marcos dictatorship during the martial law period.

She is the prime mover of the Save our Sorsogon (SOS), which raises funds for the victims of Milenyo, and a benefactor of the Sorsogon Museum now being built at the old provincial hospital.

Apostol founded the INQUIRER in 1986. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

S.O.S. Sorsogon

Would like to continue its appeal to friends and sympathizers to send their donations for the Sorsogon victims of Typhoon "Milenyo." Let's put together as much help as we can to alleviate the immediate needs of the Sorsogon casualties of this calamity.

The latest donors who have generously answered our appeal are Ma. Cecilia Batalla, P10,000; the Philam Homeowners Association, Ladies Auxiliary Brigade, P7,000; Mellie Beloy, P500; Gil and Connie Manguera, P2,000; Elisa Longalong, P1,000; Ruby Jane Tan, P500.

Monde Nissin Corp. sent 8 cases of noodles and biscuits; Marcia Caguiat, 1 large bag of clothing and 4 boxes of books and magazines; Uding Castaneda, 1 set Encyclopedia Britannica; Nina Cruz, 2 cases Lucky Me noodles and 1 sack rice; Leny Villafranca, 1 box clothes and shoes; Honor Ignacio, 2 boxes clothes and shoes; Memen Dyliaco, 1 box clothes and shoes; Irma Castaneda, 1 box clothes, 1 box books and 1 dozen coffee mugs; H. Garcia, 1 bag clothes; Anne Virata 1 box clothes.

The books are intended for schoolchildren who have lose their reading materials because of the devastating typhoon.

The S.O.S. Sorsogon Volunteers acknowledge with gratitude the magnanimous response of friends and benefactors who have continued to send their donations. They wish to announce that they will continue to receive donations until Nov. 15.

The drop-off points for those who wish to donate food, clothing, household items and other goods are the Philam Homes Barangay Hall, West Ave. Quezon City, c/o Ophie Vytiaco-Diaz, 926-4102, and the Santuario de San Antonio Convent in Forbes Park.

Cash or checks may be deposited in any branch of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, account no. 0011-1687-01. Please fax a copy of the donation deposit slip to 373-3484.

For details, call Florinda Duran-Pagsanghan, 920-1817; Ella Duran-Nolasco, 646-9980; Azucena Grajo Uranza, 3730810 and 928-9844, and Fr. Gerard Deveza, 0918-9008925

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ARREST WARRANT UNSERVED

Murder suspect roams freely, victim's kin say

HALLOWEEN
Kids dressed up to scare customers at a mall in Davao City as part of a Halloween show.
DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

TARLAC CITY—RELATIVES OF A slain labor leader at the Hacienda Luisita here have assailed the police for failing to arrest an Army soldier despite a warrant issued on him by a regional trial court in June for murder charges.

The accused, Pfc Roderick de la Cruz, had been seen roaming freely in several villages within the Cojuangco family-owned sugar estate, according to Romeo Ramos, elder brother of Ricardo Ramos, president of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (Catlu).

Ricardo, 47, was shot dead in his hut at past 9 p.m. on Oct. 25, 2005, hours after he and Department of Labor and Employment representatives handed out at least P8.8 million in back wages that the management agreed to pay as the strike entered its first year.

"Nothing came of the Task Force Ramos and the justice promised us by [former Philippine National Police chief] General [Arturo] Lomibao. They can't even arrest the killer," Ramos said.

Ricardo was among the 14 victims of extra-judicial killings that occurred in Tarlac as the strike by Catlu's 700 members and the United Luisita Workers Union's 5,000 farm workers dragged. Seven striking workers and their supporters were killed in a riot with soldiers and policemen on Nov. 16, 2004.

Management had denied a hand in any of those killings, and the police had blamed either the New People's Army or an anticommunist vigilante group that left letters identifying itself by the name "KKK."

In that batch of killings, only the case of Ramos and Aglipayan priest William Tadena had reached the courts.

But Romeo Ramos, a councilor in Barangay Mapalacsiao, said the filing of the case did not guarantee that justice could be attained for his brother.

De la Cruz, he said, had gone around the villages wearing civilian clothes. "He still appeared to be in active service," Ramos said.

Another suspect, Pfc Romeo Castillo, had been dropped from the case due to lack of evidence, a copy of the preliminary investigation's resolution showed.

Both soldiers belonged to the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion that set up a detachment not less than 100 meters from the site of the killing, Ramos said.

Lily, the wife of Ricardo Ramos, said she feared for her family's safety as De la Cruz roamed freely.

She said Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, should help implement the arrest warrant that was issued on June 6 to the police in Isabela, De la Cruz's home address.

Lt. Col. Hermilo Barrios of the military's Judge Advocate General's Office said the warrant should not be served because he filed a petition for review at the Department of Justice in June on behalf of De la Cruz.

"No development," Barrios said when asked on the status of the petition. It questioned the resolution of the city prosecutor.

According to Barrios, the results of the ballistic test showed that De la Cruz did not fire his service gun, an M-16 rifle. Police investigators in Tarlac had reported that the two slugs found in the crime scene were fired from an M-14 rifle.

"There was no attempt to switch firearms," Barrios said, adding the rifles of the two soldiers were turned over to the police.

He said it was "very improbable" for De la Cruz and Castillo to kill Ramos because "they went looking for him thrice that day."

Asked where De la Cruz was, he said: "He's in our custody at the 7th Infantry Division (in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija."

Told that the soldier was seen in Hacienda Luisita, Barrios said De la Cruz should remain in camp.

NIA workers fear rationalization may reduce productivity

NAGA CITY—THE EMPLOYEES association of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has raised fears that the rationalization plan submitted to Malacañang by the Department of Agriculture will result in a dive in agricultural productivity once approved and implemented.

Ed Yu, national spokesperson of the NIA Employees Association of the Philippines (Neap), said the rationalization plan would trim down the number of employees of the agency to a level that the target area to be irrigated all over the country will be impossible to achieve.

"We have more work before us if only to achieve the target of providing irrigation services to the farmers with less than half of the three million hectares of rice lands irrigated," Yu said.

He added that the government had so far only irrigated 1.3 million hectares of rice lands while the remaining 1.7 million hectares were still without irrigation facilities.

Yu said streamlining of employees under the DA's rationalization plan, which was submitted to the Department of Budget and Management for review, would affect 34 percent of the present number of employees.

He said the decrease had a corresponding reduction to the level of services of NIA which, he said, would ultimately stall the target of building irrigation facilities in the 1.7 million hectares of lands still not irrigated.

Yu said the NIA has 5,893 employees at present and if the rationalization plan is implemented only 3,895 will remain to build irrigation facilities.

"There are 196 permanent employees now in Bicol and it will be reduced to only 113 once the rationalization plan pushes through," he said.

Yu said the Neap opposed the rationalization plan because agricultural productivity would be sacrificed and services to the farmers would not be sustained.

Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

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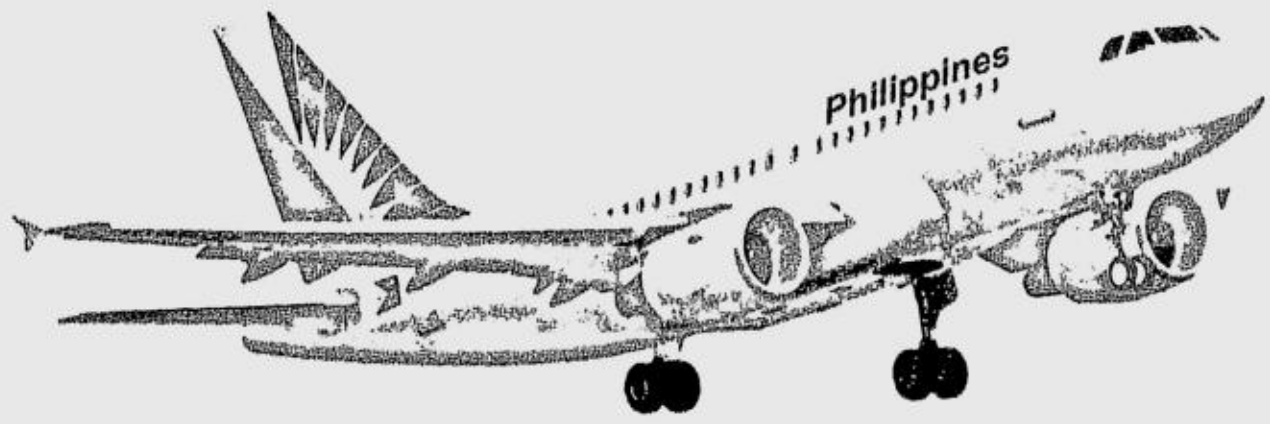

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Gov't to continue clearing of Boracay illegal structures

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE DEMOLITION of illegal structures on the beaches of world-famous Boracay Island will continue until the "no-build zones" are all cleared, said Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano.

"It is for the common good," Durano told reporters here Wednesday during the sidelights of the Western Visayas Tourism Assembly.

Durano said due process had been followed and the rights of business owners, especially those affected by the clearing up of structures, were being respected.

He said notices had earlier been issued to resort owners who put up the structures within the 25-meter "no-build zone" from the coastline.

Durano said that aside from clearing up the shoreline, the Philippine Tourism Authority and other government agencies would work for the improvement of the drainage and sewerage systems of Boracay, the country's prime tourist destination.

A group of resort and business owners on the island welcomed the dismantling operations.

"We support the implementation of ordinances that aim to clear the beaches and make our streets safe," Nenette Aguirre-Graf, president of the Boracay Foundation Inc. (BFI), told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Graf said illegal structures had been removed from the stretch of Boat Station 1 at the northern tip of the island to Boat Station 3 in the south.

"Our beaches are clear and look nicer," said Graf.

She said most resort operators who were informed about their violations voluntary cleared or removed the structures 10 days before the clearing operations.

But Graf said a guideline on the removal of structures should be adopted.

Some resort owners have complained that even decorative plants were uprooted and destroyed although they could have only been transferred, said Graf.

She said others complained that temporary structures and objects, such as chairs and tables, were removed from the area although they possessed temporary permits while construction was ongoing in their resorts.

The sustainability of Boracay's development has become urgent as tourist arrivals continue to increase. Last year, visitors numbered 499,457, from 428,755 in 2004.

The island's tourism industry contributed P8.18 billion to the economy last year.

Kudarat gov rejects computer deal offer

ISULAN, SULTAN KUDARAT—THE GOVERNOR of this province has rejected a firm's offer to computerize offices of the newly built provincial capitol here on negotiated terms.

Gov. Pax Mangudadatu literally locked his office's glass doors to "under-the-table transactions."

Some witnesses said Mangudadatu had "scolded" a contractor he suspected of overpricing project costs at computerizing local offices.

"Please ... Let there be no 'under-the-table dealings' here," Mangudadatu was quoted as telling in Filipino a sales executive of a computer company who met him at his office on Oct. 26.

"*Nangakig si* gov (Gov. is angry)," said a farmer emerging from the governor's office.

"I have sworn by the Koran never to cause a single centavo corrupted in my office," said the Maguindanaon Muslim executive of a predominantly Christian province.

The contractor, who asked that his and his firm's identities be withheld, later said he had asked the governor for an appointment for a PowerPoint presentation of his company's profile and technical plans for the job he was offering.

He said his company, which is based in Metro Manila, had established a corporate name in the field of information technology.

Asked, however, if the service offered was prompted by a published notice for open bidding, the firm's representative said he was not aware of any.

Mangudadatu said he had the impression that the computer firm representative was trying to corner him for a negotiated contract of over P500,000 to computerize the provincial offices.

Any contract should go through public bidding, which would open smallest details of related conversations to the public, he said.

"That [offer] is too costly. We know of some possibly cheaper alternatives. We will look into this and I warned him (the salesperson) against an attempt to even jack-up costs," Mangudadatu said.

The contractor explained that his proposal will cover labor and professional fees; a wireless satellite disk; switchboards, as well as expenses for a training program package for IT staff to be held in Manila.

He said the training would also include troubleshooting human resource capability for systems maintenance. Nash B. Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao

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Business Can be simple.

60 NPA members attack Army unit, cement factory

LT. JONATHAN Aloo, commanding officer of the 22nd Infantry Battalion in Ligao City shows the recovered weapons of the NPA.
NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

CAMALIG, ALBAY—ABOUT 60 NEW PEOple's Army rebels attacked an Army detachment and a cement factory in Barangay Palanog in this town at about 2 a.m. on Sunday.

Lt. Jonathan P. Aloo, commanding officer of the Army's 22nd Infantry Battalion based in Ligao City, said the attack could have been triggered by the refusal of officers of Goodfound Cement Corp. to pay "revolutionary tax" to the communist NPA.

The Army detachment provides security to the cement plant, which has been under threat of attack by the guerrillas.

Aloo said the staff house and the bunkhouse of the cement factory workers were hit by an M-203 grenade launcher.

One of the factory workers, identified as Javid Pamimdim, 29, a native of San Fernando, Cebu City, was wounded in the left arm, while the roof of the bunkhouse was damaged.

The Army recovered 75 "Molotov" improvised bombs, empty shells of M-14, M-16 and M-60 rifles, 11 pieces of fire-starting torch, and three unexploded grenades fired from the M-203 launcher.

No casualties were reported on the government side.

The Army said the NPA rebels might have suffered casualties, citing bloodstains found in the area. *Niño Jesus Orbeta, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

DITO SA AMING
SHOW, BUSINESS
ANG USAPAN.

Pag-Ibig exec vows fast processing of applications for calamity loans

SORSOGON CITY—A TOP OFFICIAL OF THE Home Development Mutual Fund, popularly known as Pag-Ibig Fund, in Bicol said checks for calamity loan applications filed in the morning were released in the afternoon.

Chito Enciso, Pag-Ibig regional manager, said members were allowed a loan equivalent to 80 percent of their total accumulated value payable in two years at 10.75 percent annual interest.

Gerald Zantua, head of the loans section, said applications would be accepted within a three-month period reckoned from Sept. 27.

The Pag-Ibig set up a satellite office at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan here purposely to process calamity loan applications upon the request of Rep. Francis Escudero.

Those who failed to file applications last week will have to file at the agency's regional office in Legazpi, Zantua said.

Meanwhile, Typhoon "Milenyo" not only damaged properties but also worsened the already strained relationship between the Government Service Insurance System and its members.

This was admitted by GSIS Sorsogon branch manager Leonardo Lambunao following complaints from irate members who had pending claims and those who wanted to avail of the calamity loan but whose applications could not be processed immediately due to a glitch in the agency's computer system.

Lambunao said the entire electrical and communications systems of their office were totally damaged, disconnecting them from the main communication system of GSIS which was needed for the processing of loans and claims.

Aside from the glitch, Lambunao said they also had to acquire an access code, which is automatically revoked after 15 days, from the main office to get through the system.

But since they couldn't communicate with the main office, he had to send an employee to Manila to get such a code.

After acquiring the code, computers had to be reset individually, he explained.

When INQUIRER visited the GSIS office here Friday, a large number of annoyed members were still awaiting words about their applications and claims.

Lambunao said they just accepted loan applications and assured members that processing would be fast-tracked once they got through the system.

GSIS is extending calamity loan of P20,000 to each member payable in three years, with eight percent interest per year.

GSIS members lamented that while they had to wait for time, loan applicants at the Pag-Ibig got their checks in a matter of hours. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Mountain Province executives feud over P60-M loan used to build mall

BAGUIO CITY—OFFICIALS OF MOUNTain Province are feuding in court over a P60-million government loan that is being used to build the province's first shopping mall.

Board Member Marcial Lawilao Jr. has gone to the regional trial court of Bontoc to sue Gov. Maximo Dalog and his colleagues at the provincial board for allegedly processing a Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) loan without authorization.

The government is developing the Circle Area in the downtown area of Bontoc, the capital town, into a modern car park, bus terminal and mall complex.

Dalog, who chairs the Regional Development Council, had told reporters earlier that he needed to infuse new infrastructure to drum up investments, after the province displaced Ifugao as the poorest province of the Cordillera in the latest economic report of the National Economic and Development Authority.

Lawilao said the provincial government proceeded to bid out the construction of the Bontoc commercial complex before it could obtain funding for the project.

He told the court that bidding out a project before the government could secure funding "is illegal and irregular," and constituted "rigged bidding."

Vice Gov. Benjamin Dominguez and the board members, in their Oct. 16 affidavits, said the bidding took place before the LBP approved the loan deal in January.

They said Lawilao was misrepresenting the facts before the court.

"[Lawilao's allegation] is a deliberate falsehood ... The bidding process prior to the loan agreement was duly authorized by the Landbank and was even made a pre-condition for the release of the loan in its letter dated July 27, 2005," Dominguez said.

He referred to the July 27, 2005, letter of LBP-Bontoc manager Rodolfo dela Paz to Dalog.

It said: "Since the result of the bidding activity will be one of the 'pre-release' requirements of the loan, [the bank's lending center] finally decided to advise your office to proceed with the bidding process... according to phases of the proposed project in order not to hamper the actual release of the loan [or] the smooth implementation of the project."

In an Aug. 8, 2005, resolution, the provincial board ordered the bidding for the project's initial phase to proceed. The LBP formalized the loan agreement in January.

The loan was secured jointly by Dalog and Bontoc Mayor Alfonso Kiatong, based on a written understanding that Bontoc retained administrative control over the facility.

The agreement obliges the provincial government to finance, construct and administer the underground parking area.

In their joint affidavits, the seven board members said Lawilao was party to all the board deliberations that led to the ratification of Dalog's actions. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

WOMEN elders in Barangay Tulgao, Tinglayan, Kalinga pound "unoy" rice while chanting to ease fatigue during their demonstration. EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Farmers urged to plant native rice for export

BAGUIO CITY—FARMERS HAVE BEEN ENticed to produce traditional rice varieties, not for local consumption but to meet the demand of the international market, according to a farmers' group in the Cordillera.

"There are farmers who are planting the indigenous varieties because they only want to export and earn money," Andres Wailan, vice chair of the Apit-Tako, said.

He said the government was buying the *unoy*, a native variety, for P50 per kilogram and exports it to the US. Seven tons of the variety had already been shipped to the US, he said.

While the United States is buying pesticide-free Cordillera rice, the country is consuming imported rice varieties that could be a health risk because of their exposure to chemicals.

"We are consuming imported rice which is laden with pesticide and other countries are benefiting from our rice which is safe and has no chemicals," he said.

Aside from the imported rice varieties, the hybrid varieties have too much chemical farm inputs which could also be hazardous to health, Wailan warned.

The statement was made last week when farmers led by Apit-tako marched on Session Road here to denounce the government's continued importation of farm products.

Patricio Ananayo, chief of the agribusiness and marketing assistance division of the Department of Agriculture-Cordillera, said that although the government was supporting the importation of rice and campaigns for hybrid varieties, "we need to buy organic rice varieties that are safe."

But, according to Wailan, the country is producing enough rice and that the government should not depend on importation.

In 2005, National Food Authority records showed that 402,000 cavans of imported rice reached the Cordillera. Kalinga, which produces more than its domestic needs, had 40,000 cavans.

The 2004 report of the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics showed that the Cordillera's rice output was more than enough for its 1.6 million population. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Priest battling paper mill links threats to his crusade

BUTUAN CITY—A PRIEST LEADING THE campaign for the closure of the country's largest paper manufacturing firm, which is based in Caraga, said he now fears for his life.

Florio Falcon, parish priest of Bislig City in Surigao del Sur, said he had been receiving threats since he exposed the activities of Picop Resources Inc. (PRI), formerly known as Paper Industries Corp. of the Philippines.

Falcon was urging the government to stop the operations of PRI, which is based in Bislig, because the company was allegedly violating antipollution laws.

Domingo Tumambing, PRI spokesperson, said the company had no plans of harming the priest.

"We already filed a libel case against him for claiming we wanted him killed," Tumambing said.

Falcon said he had received "death letters" warning him to tone down his attacks on PRI. "I'm very afraid of my security because it's clear they are determined to kill me," he told the INQUIRER.

He alleged that the warnings bore the "trademarks" of a PRI-backed death squad which, he said, was notorious in the area for carrying out executions of personalities opposed to the firm's operation.

Falcon said if he got killed, only PRI should be held responsible.

Falcon, lead convenor of the multisectoral Kalihukan Gabantay sa Kagubatan, said he would continue with his campaign despite the threats.

Citing a study conducted by researchers from the University of the Philippines, Falcon said the high level of toxic carbon and sulfur from the paper firm's processing plants had contaminated the water and air in the city and nearby towns.

He also said PRI has yet to fully comply with the Pollution Adjudication Board's June 30 order, which required it to put up a water and air treatment facilities there.

But Tumambing said the company had complied with the standards set by the Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Management Act. *Franklin M. Caliguid, Inquirer Mindanao*

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Baguio ready to take over 3 mini-hydro plants in Benguet

BAGUIO CITY—THE CITY GOVERNMENT is getting ready to take over the operations of three mini-hydro plants at nearby Asin in Tuba, Benguet.

During its last regular session, the city council agreed to give Hydro Electric Development Corp. (Hedcor), which is operating the plants, 30 days to wind up its operations and inform its employees of this latest development.

The city government was expected to release the notice once negotiations with the Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco) become final and the city gets the assurance that Beneco will buy the power generated by the plants.

"We should get assurance from Beneco that they will take the power. We can gain from this. Beneco charges us P7.50/kWh. We can pay Beneco with corresponding power from the Asin plants. But we must get their assurance they will get the power from us," said Councilor Edilberto Tenefrancia.

Under the present setup, Hedcor operates the plants and sells the bulk of the power to the San Fernando Light and Power Corp. in Pampanga, with a sharing scheme among the city government, the Baguio Water District (BWD) and Hedcor for all power generated.

The operations of the plants have been the subject of much discussions since a 25-year contract between the city government and Hedcor, which delegated operation of the plants to BWD, ended on Aug. 31.

With the termination of the contract but with the city government having no means or technical expertise to run the plants, Hedcor was tasked to continue operations until a more suitable arrangement could be had, the council said. *Donna Demetillo, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Heat on for early UN adoption of declaration on tribal rights

BAGUIO CITY—THE HEAT IS ON for the early adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the UN General Assembly as leaders of indigenous peoples in the world start lobbying their governments to approve the declaration after more than 20 years of debate.

"I am pleased that the Philippine government, through Ambassador Lauro Baja, stated before the third committee of the General Assembly [on] Oct. 17 that it would adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples," said Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in an e-mail from the UN headquarters in New York.

Corpuz, an Igorot leader from Mountain Province, said she was optimistic that more government representatives to the UN General Assembly who have been meeting since September, would finally vote on the declaration before the meeting ended in December.

In June, she assailed the Philippine government for abstaining from voting when the Human Rights Council endorsed what indigenous leaders worldwide considered a historic declaration.

> 'The declaration can help eliminate human rights violations, combat discrimination against, and address the marginalization of about 370 million indigenous peoples worldwide'

"It's a shame that the Philippine government, which prides itself as among the few countries with a law on indigenous peoples, had missed the boat in endorsing a historic declaration," she said then, referring to the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (Ipra).

Before it ended its inaugural session on June 29, the Human Rights Council adopted the declaration by a roll-call vote of 30 in favor, two against, and 12 abstentions, which included the Philippines.

But the Philippine government finally changed its tune.

"The Philippines supports the much-awaited completion of the process to adopt the declaration, a global undertaking that had taken more than 20 years to develop," Baja was quoted by the UN Department of Public Information as saying during the deliberations on Oct. 17.

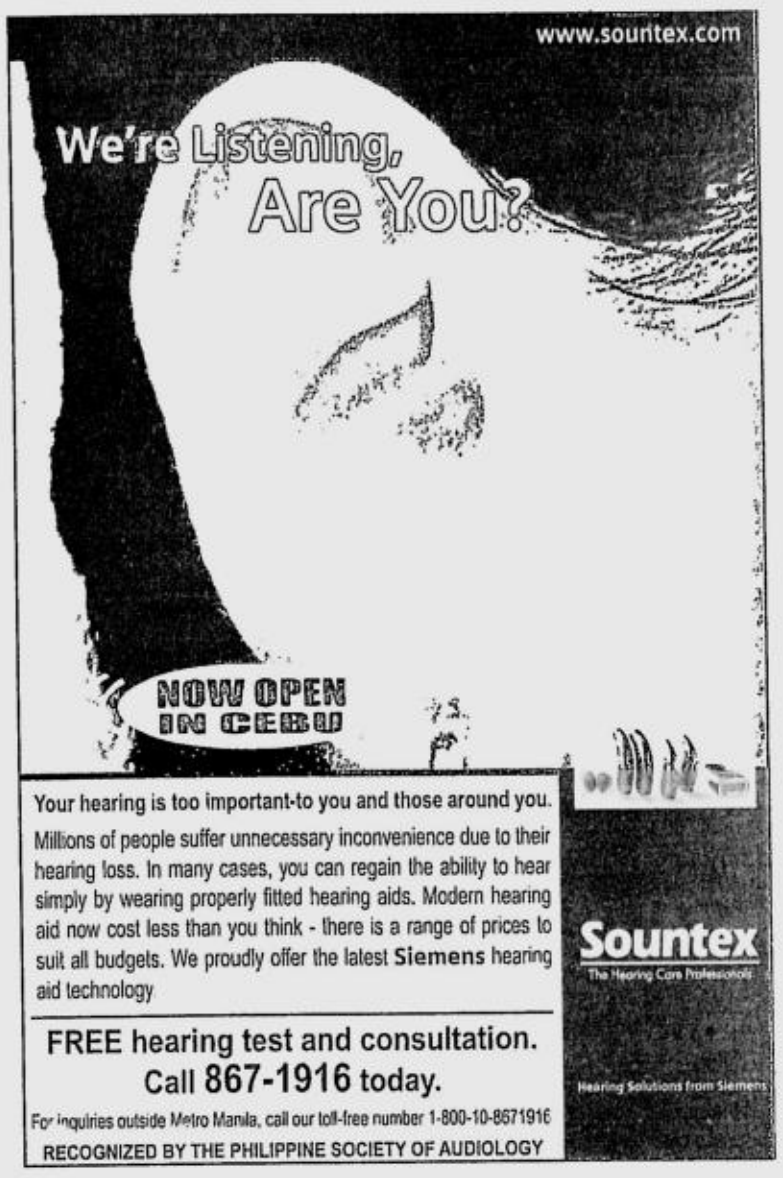
Corpuz and Rodolfo Stavenhagen, UN special rapporteur on human rights and fundamental freedoms, appealed to the General Assembly to "adopt the declaration without delay" at its current session.

The declaration will help build "a truly universal human rights protection system that all peoples under the United Nations should indeed welcome," Corpuz and Stavenhagen said in a joint statement.

Corpuz said that although not legally binding, the declaration, once adopted by the UN General Assembly, would establish an important standard and "a significant tool" that can help eliminate human rights violations, help combat discrimination against, and address the marginalization of an estimated 370 million indigenous peoples worldwide.

The declaration could be one of the international standards that they could invoke when their rights were violated, local activists said.

"Indigenous peoples can definitely use the declaration as one of their tools for redress and justice," said Vernie Yocogan-Diano, acting chair of the Innabuyog-Gabriela, an organization of indigenous women in the Cordillera. *Maurice Malanes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



THE ST. PETER'S Mission Church was destroyed by contractors to pave the way for a government gymnasium in Mt. Province. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN PHILIPPINES

Court rules Anglicans can reclaim church land taken over by DPWH

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE SUNDAY SERVICE FOR an Anglican community in Sabangan, Mt. Province, finally has good news to share.

A regional trial court on Friday allowed about 500 Anglicans of Sabangan to rebuild their small church, which a contractor of the Department of Public Works and Highways had destroyed to make way for a public gymnasium.

In a decision, Judge Joseph Patnaan of the Bontoc RTC ordered the DPWH to suspend the gymnasium project after ruling that the church owned the land where it was being built.

At dawn of July 9, contractors hired by the DPWH bulldozed a single-story structure that served as the St. Peter's Mission Church for Sabangan's Anglican community.

The contractor proceeded to destroy the building on July 12, despite a May 30 court order stopping the project.

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines sued Leonardo Leyaley, Mt. Province district engineer, and the contractor, Felipe Moises.

Patnaan reached the same conclusion made in a May 30 ruling by Judge James Kibiten of the Bauko-Sabangan Municipal Circuit Court that the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Luzon had proprietary rights over the Sabangan lot where the metal canopy of the town gym now stands.

Quoting Kibiten, Patnaan ordered Moises "to remove at his own expense all improvements he may cause to be erected or introduced over the premises of the land in dispute without causing any irreparable and undue damage to the land and its premises."

In a letter to the diocese, Mt. Province Rep. Victor Dominguez, who funded the gymnasium project, said the church was a multipurpose building donated to the Sabangan community by the Iglesia Filipina Independiente or Aglipayan Church.

Victor Ananayo, assistant to Anglican Bishop Edward Malecdan of Bontoc, said the Sabangan Anglicans had been holding Masses before a makeshift tabernacle every Sunday, after Patnaan stopped the DPWH from interfering with their "constitutional right to worship" while he heard a case of "forcible entry" filed against the government.

Ananayo said the diocese would begin building a larger St. Peter's church in Sabangan "regardless of whether the government will again appeal the decision before the Supreme Court."

"Our lawyers assured us it would be legal," he said.

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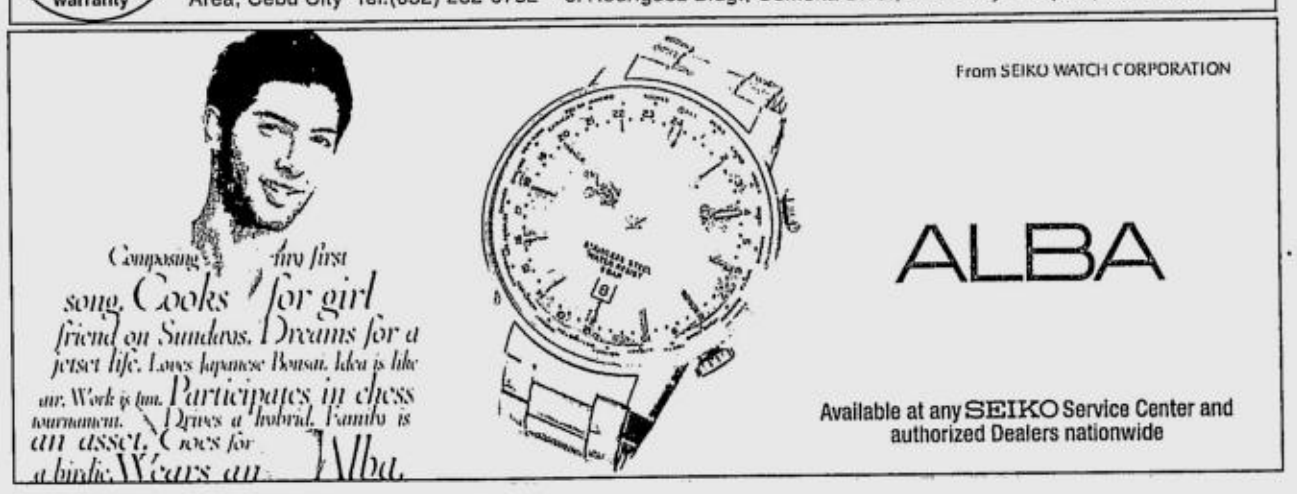

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WELCOAT'S Jay-R Reyes battles Coca-Cola's Jason Misolas for possession in last night's game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Kings find their Marks

Ginebra trips Alaska; Coke plasters Welcoat

GAMES FRIDAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:35 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs. Air21
7:20 p.m.—Purefoods vs. San Miguel

By Musong Castillo

BARANGAY GINEBRA WON A CLOSE GAME for the first time since it became a powerhouse squad, and it took a little-known guard whom Alaska did not respect so much to help pull off the job.

Left wide open several times as the big guns ran into double-teams last night, Mark Macapagal drilled in 17 fourth-quarter points as the Gin Kings completed a come-from-behind 98-91 decision of the Aces in the Talk 'N Text PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

"It's a gamble they (Aces) took and we happened to make the shots," said Ginebra coach Jong Uichico, who heaped praises on a swingman who will surely be marked in future games.

"And this is one of those close games where we came out on top for the first time," Uichico added. "First close game we won, and it is a good sign that tells us that we can be there (to compete with the tough teams)."

The Kings trailed most of the way, by twin digits even, in the first half, before getting their acts together starting late in the third period where they crept to within a bucket of the Aces entering the fourth period.

After another Mark, Caguioa, sparkled for 14 third-quarter points to rally the Kings back, Macapagal uncorked his 17 points built around a 4-of-7 clip from beyond the arc.

"They (Aces) doubled Mark (Caguioa) and he was willing to give up that ball and set Mac (Macapagal) up," Uichico said. "It wouldn't have been possible without the passer. And he (Caguioa) did a great job."

Ginebra, which moved to solo second place with a 5-2 card, lost two straight games to formidable teams before last night's win.

Alaska, meanwhile, lost for the fifth straight time despite getting 18 points from former MVP Willie Miller and twin digits from five others. The Aces are now at 1-6 and still alone in the cellar.

In the second game, Chris Pacana, a 6-foot, California-born point guard relegated to the reserved list at the start of the season, hit the last four of his 14 fourth-quarter points inside the final 18.8 seconds to preserve a 92-86 victory by Coca-Cola over Welcoat.

Coca-Cola, down to nine men with key men Ali Peek (knee injury), William Antonio (groin) and Neil Raneses (family emergency) in civvies, picked up its third win in seven games while dealing the fighting Dragons their third straight loss in a 2-5 card.

The scores:

First Game

COCA-COLA 92—Salangsang 21, Pacana 18, Arigo 15, Ferreria 9, Miranda 8, Ramos 6, Misolas 6, Yeo 5, Gavino 4.

WELCOAT 86—Tangkay 25, Wainwright 17, Cabatu 16, Ibañez 10, Lopez 7, Gelig 6, Reyes 4, Sta. Maria 1, Baguion 0, Lao 0, Mente 0.

Quarters: 13-19, 38-41, 58-61, 92-86.

Second Game

GINEBRA 98—Macapagal 28, Caguioa 27, Menk 20, Reavis 6, Mamaril 4, Seigle 4, Salvacion 3, Helterbrand 2, Hatfield 2, Abarrientos 2.

ALASKA 91—Miller 18, Dela Cruz 16, Thoss 13, Cariaso 12, Belasco 12, Singson 10, Ferriols 8, Laure 2, Luanzon 0, Bajar 0.

Quarters: 16-24, 40-50, 66-68, 98-91.

Late Sports

More Sports stories on A29-A32

Paba still quiet on Asiad fund deadline

By June Navarro

LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL OVER FOR BASEBALL.

The deadline for the Philippine Amateur Baseball Association (Paba) to produce the funds needed to finance its Asian Games campaign passed the other day and nothing was heard from Paba president Hector Navasero.

"We haven't heard any thing from the Paba since Friday," said PSC commissioner Ritchie Garcia, deputy chef de mission of the Philippine delegation to the quadrennial meet slated Dec. 1-15 in Doha, Qatar.

"They just have to show the money and every thing will be fine. But right now, I guess their (baseball team) fate hangs in the balance," he added.

Navasero was given by Philippine Sports Commission chair and chef de mission until Saturday to come up with the P2 million needed to bankroll the 22-man baseball team to the Asiad.

Ramirez couldn't be reached for comment but he made it clear Friday night that baseball would not be included in the RP delegation if Navasero doesn't have the money by then.

Navasero was able to raise P900,000 and was hoping to also get the P600,000 the PSC promised as reimbursement for a baseball tournament it hosted last year.

Garcia said, however, that the amount is not enough since it would only cover the air fare of the team.

"They will still have to find money for the uniforms and allowances of the athletes and coaches," said Garcia.

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Makati police go on worldwide web

Residents can soon report crime incidents through the Internet

By Tarra V. Quismundo

TO ENHANCE ITS ACCESSIBILITY to the public, the Makati Police Station will be going online early next month, launching its own website that will enable residents to report crimes using the Internet.

"People can lodge their complaints through the website and they can also learn more about the station, its personnel, its capabilities, and deployment among others," Supt. Gilbert Cruz, city police chief, told the INQUIRER.

The station will also post its accomplishment reports online for public viewing, including how the police acted on each complaint filed through the Web, he added.

The Makati police website will be another step toward the station's full use of computer technology.

Recently, Cruz launched "Police I-Chat," a project that will ensure that he is constantly in touch with his precinct commanders and section chiefs.

Using a computer software that links a personal computer to multiple mobile phone users, the program allows the top cop to simultaneously send text messages to his men out in the field.

The Makati police will next equip each precinct with web-linked cameras to enable teleconferencing among officials for immediate coordination during emergencies, Cruz said.

'Disenyo' judges announced

By Tarra V. Quismundo

NATIONAL ARTIST NAPOLEON Abueva will be one of the judges in the "Disenyo Milenyo" art competition, launched earlier this month by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

"Our office invited him ... Why not? He is a national artist," said MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno yesterday.

The judging will be held on Sunday, Nov. 5, at the People Power Monument in Quezon City.

Joining Abueva is Teresita Castillo, Department of Environment and Natural Resources undersecretary for field operations.

A total of 16 entries have been submitted to the MMDA, which challenged people to turn trees felled by Typhoon "Milenyo" into works of art.

The first prize winner will receive P50,000; the second prize winner, P30,000 and the third placer, P20,000.

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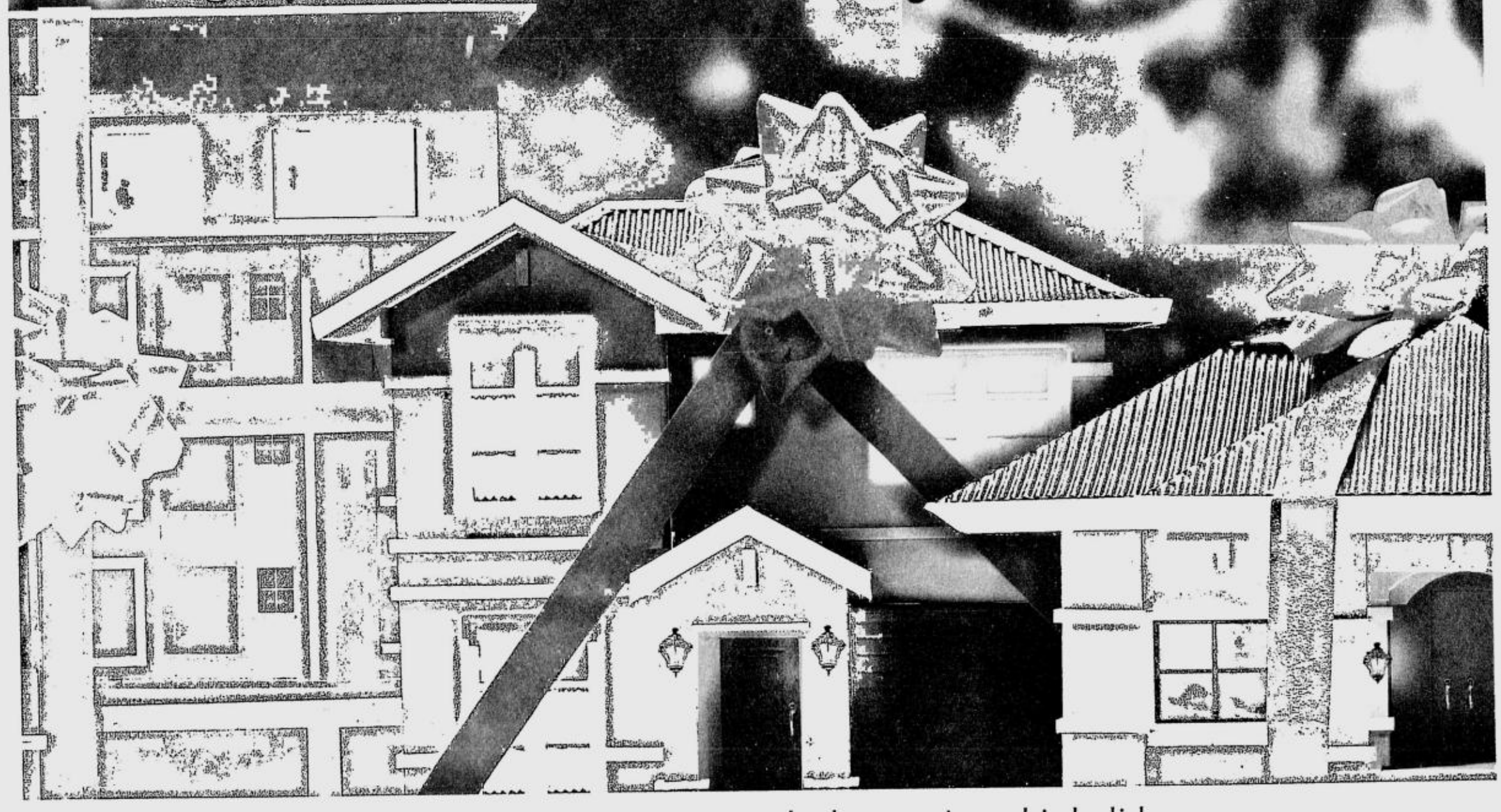

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Coming soon: QC Polytechnic University

FLORAL DISPLAY
A vendor in Manila arranges her best floral displays as she waits for cemetery goers to drop by her stall. RYAN LIM

By DJ Yap

QUEZON CITY MAY SOON HAVE MORE funds for its priority projects, such as the construction of the satellite campus of the Quezon City Polytechnic University, with the impending approval of its supplemental budget for the year.

The 24-member city council last week approved on first and second reading the P1.5 billion budget to "sustain the gains the city has achieved" in the delivery of basic services and infrastructure development.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., meanwhile, expressed his gratitude for the immediate and unanimous approval of the supplemental budget, and attributed the city's excellent fiscal performance to the "strong working relationship" between its executive and legislative branches.

He said the new appropriation shall be spent on additional priority projects, including the P80 million satellite campus of QCPU in Batasan Hills, the construction of a columbarium, crematorium and cemetery costing P195 million, and street lighting projects worth P100 million.

New buildings

Other additional projects are the P130 million fire and emergency rescue compound, and the P250 million Civic Center Building at the City Hall compound.

Some P135 million has also been allocated for the development of the Quezon Memorial Circle; and another P100 million for the construction of the new Quezon City Museum. Another P50 million has been appropriated for road and traffic signs.

The priority projects have been identified, evaluated and recommended to the mayor by the city's infrastructure and special committee for further deliberation before implementation.

MetroBriefs

Robbers with toy guns arrested

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation has warned the public against a group of robbers operating in Quirino Avenue, Manila after agents nabbed two of its members last week. "The members of this robbery group strike at any time of the day, victimizing commuters and motorists alike," NBI Intelligence Special Operations Division (Isod) Allan Contado said. He explained that the suspects often used toy guns to scare their victims. Arrested were Roland Conde, 30, of GMA, Cavite and Richeal Baesa, 30, of Pandacan, Manila.

Margaux C. Ortiz

9-month-old boy needs help

NINE-month-old Clarence Buan is suffering from bacterial meningitis, a serious infection of the fluid in the spinal column and that which surrounds the brain. His ailment, which has caused him to go blind, can be treated with antibiotics but Clarence needs at least P500 a day for his medicine. His father, however, earns only P150 a day as a jeepney barker. Readers who would like to help Clarence can call his grandmother, Lina Buan, at 285-3967. Donations can be deposited in any BPI branch through account number 547-3233-535, under the name of Lina's employer, Arona Blanco. Lina also has another request: A crib for Clarence.

NBI agents seize P30-M counterfeit designer shoes

By Margaux C. Ortiz

MORE THAN P30 MILLION WORTH OF counterfeit Lacoste footwear were confiscated in a raid conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Pasay City last week.

NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) chief Jose Justo Yap said his agents raided Esteva General Merchandise, located at the second floor of Merwin Mart on F.B. Harrison St. after Lacoste local distributors filed a complaint.

The bureau operatives also raided the establishment's other stores at Pasillo F9 and F10 in U-Need Shopping Center on Taft Avenue Extension after obtaining a search warrant from Judge Jesus Mupas of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court.

Trademark infringement

The establishment's alleged owner, Wilson Cua, faces charges of trademark infringement and unfair competition, Yap said.

Seized during the raid conducted on Thursday were 8,473 pairs of fake Lacoste slip-ons sold for P400 each, the NBI official added.

"However, Lacoste lost a total of P38,975,800 in profits because an original pair of Lacoste slip-ons costs P4,600 each," Yap explained.

In an earlier interview, agent Dennis Siyhian of the NBI IPRD said Lacoste footwear distributors in the Philippines have become concerned with the recent proliferation of fake shoes and slip-ons in the country.

Latest styles

"The counterfeiters were able to imitate the latest styles of Lacoste shoes, even those that are still in the catalogues and have not been released in the country," Siyhian said.

He added that the fake shoes, which were brought to the Philippines from China, could be products of an "illegal transfer of technology."

"Because original Lacoste footwear are reportedly manufactured in the Far East, information about the shoe styles may have been leaked to counterfeiters," the NBI agent said.

Metro Citizen's Call

0918-3985566

THIS is regarding the floods at the Dapitan side of UST where a little rain would easily clog the canals along Dapitan, leaving the street flooded and students stranded. I appeal for the government to clean and unclog the sewers. This used to be their job before the rainy season, even without rain, you can see the canals are clogged, Thank you and hope something comes out of this Metro Citizen's Call.

Bing Evangelista, 51, UST, Sampaloc

THE QC EPWMD should look into improper waste management of the Philippine Children's Medical Center. PCMC waste storage site is located just beside the sidewalk leading to our office and is potentially harmful to people. Highly toxic leachate or garbage juices that flow from it go directly to sidewalk, posing harm to us pedestrians and nearby communities. Please get the attention of authorities to relocate the PCMC waste storage site. Thanks.

Jeagle Calibuso, 24, Office of the Ombudsman

BAKIT po hinahayaan ng gobyerno ang mga barangay official na magtayo, mag-squat at barahin ang buong sidewalk ng Clavel St., malapit sa kanto ng Sto Cristo sa Binondo (Barangay 271 near Divisoria Mall)? Ito ay garapal na paglabag sa batas, 'di ba? Pakitingnan po para maaksyunan. Salamat po.

S. Cortes, Binondo, Manila

Did you know

THE MOST frequently committed traffic violation last year was not wearing seatbelts or violating Republic Act 8750, also known as the Seatbelt Use Act of 1999.

Almost 6,000 motorists in Metro Manila were apprehended for violating the law with P2.9 million in fines collected.

Nationwide, there were about 140,000 apprehensions, earning the government more than P40 million in fines. Central Luzon had the highest number of apprehensions with over 33,000.

The second most frequent traffic violation was obstruction with over 61,000 cases.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Why can't I come home?

- Ninoy Aquino

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Bush could wind up suffering sting of defeat

WASHINGTON—TWENTY-EIGHT years after his first campaign, George W. Bush is waging his last. If the polls are right, the president could wind up experiencing the sting of defeat for the first time since that 1978 race.

Most of the winning campaigns in between have been close, and Bush's victories have hinged in part on his flair for retail politicking that allows him to make personal connections with voters.

But the war in Iraq has driven Bush's popularity down to a point where he has had to avoid major public events and instead has appeared almost exclusively with party elites.

Still, Bush refuses to accept the conventional wisdom in Washington that Republicans might lose the House and perhaps even the Senate. He cuts off questions about the impact of a Democratic takeover and insists Republicans are going to win.

"This election is going to be determined by how our candidates run locally. And I believe if they continue to emphasize the big issues—keeping taxes low and protecting the American people—we'll win," Bush said Friday.

He is doing what he can to help make that happen and certainly has more impact on the race than any other politician.

Bush has raised more than $193 million (euro152 million) at about 90 events this election season. He has posed with dozens of smiling candidates on the steps of the presidential jet Air Force One. He has eaten ice cream with a candidate who admitted to marital infidelity. He traveled across the country to sign a bill sponsored by California Congressman Richard Pombo.

"By the likes of what we see behind the scenes, he's showing all the vigor of a campaign stretch as when his own name is on the ballot," said Dan Bartlett, one of Bush's closest advisers.

Although Bush's fate is not at stake, the last two years of his term—and his legacy—is. Democratic control of Congress would surely hasten his lame-duck status. At stake in the Nov. 7 election are all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 33 of the 100 Senate seats.

Bush's campaign help for his party has so far come solely in the form of raising cash and appearing before the faithful. Many of those fund-raisers are closed to all media coverage.

By contrast, before the 2002 elections, a much more popular Bush began appearing at rallies in August. In October alone, he appeared at eight and nearly all of his political events, of any kind, were open to cameras and reporters. *AP*

BUSH REUTERS

WORLDBRIEFS

CASTRO in footage released Oct. 28. REUTERS

Fidel Castro walks, talks on state television

HAVANA—Convalescing Cuban President Fidel Castro appeared on state television Saturday speaking to Cubans as he browsed the day's newspapers, his first public appearance in 40 days. "Now, when our enemies have prematurely declared me moribund or dead, I'm happy to send to our compatriots and friends around the world this short film footage," said Castro, 80. The Cuban leader walked unassisted in the five-minute video. Castro, in power since 1959, temporarily handed over the presidency to his brother Raul, 75, on July 31 as he recuperated from gastrointestinal surgery. *AFP*

Egypt moves 5,000 troops near Gaza border

ISMAILIA, Egypt—Egypt moved 5,000 more security forces near the Gaza Strip border on Saturday after an Israeli report said Israel may bomb tunnels used for smuggling weapons into Palestinian territories, an Egyptian official said. The Israeli daily newspaper Maariv reported on Friday that precision-guided weapons would be used to penetrate deep underground in the hope of destroying the tunnel network that the Jewish state says riddles the area, which is 14 km long and approximately 100 meters wide. *Reuters*

Fox sends federal police to Mexico's Oaxaca crisis

OAXACA, Mexico—Mexico sent a federal riot force to the tourist city of Oaxaca on Saturday after gunmen thought to be local police killed three people in violence sparked by a long-running protest to oust a governor. The government also ordered leftist activists in Oaxaca to immediately evacuate numerous streets, squares and buildings they have occupied along with striking teachers for some five months, raising fears of an imminent police raid. *Reuters*

Bangladesh hunt for interim leader provokes riot

DHAKA—BANGLADESHI PRESIDENT IAJUDdin Ahmed stepped in on Sunday to try to defuse an acute political crisis over the formation of a caretaker government to steer the nation through to January general elections.

Iajuddin began consulting the leaders of feuding parties, seeking a way out of a confrontation which has already seen 19 people killed and hundreds injured in three days of street clashes in Dhaka and other towns and cities.

The president first intervened on Saturday, the day Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's five-year mandate expired and former Supreme Court chief justice K.M. Hasan was to have taken charge of an interim administration to prepare for national elections.

With opposition parties adamantly opposed to the arrangement, claiming Hasan was a government stooge, the former judge withdrew just hours before he was due to be sworn in.

"I was prepared to serve ... the national interest, but the level of mistrust between the political parties has made my position untenable," he said in a statement on Saturday.

"It is best I should stand aside rather than be a hurdle to the political process," Hasan added.

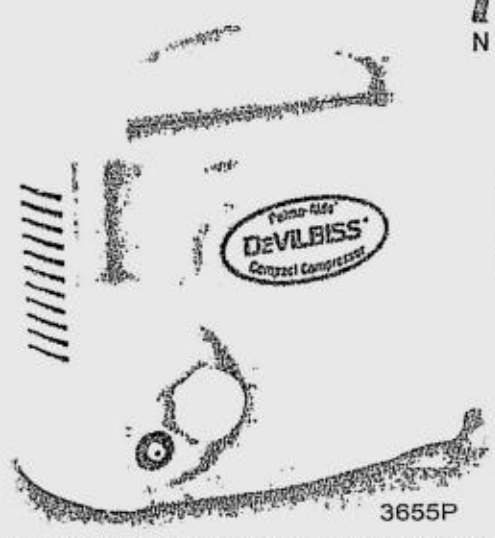
Iajuddin then proposed taking his place in a compromise that Khaleda's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) appeared to favor but the main opposition Aawami League rejected.

Under the constitution, Hasan, as the immediate past chief justice, is first choice to head the interim administration. If he declines or is deemed unfit, one of his predecessors, not above the age of 72, should be chosen instead.

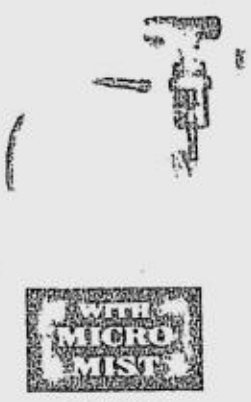
Two other former chief justices—Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury and Hamidul Haque—fit that category. The opposition said they had no objection to either of them. *Reuters*

5 YEARS WARRANTY

Pulmo-Aide
NEBULIZER • COMPRESSOR
by: DEVILBISS



GINHAWANG MAAASAHAN
KAHIT SAAN, KAHIT KAILAN



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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

The WORLD

Global warming could cost the world $7 trillion

Report also says 200M people may become refugees

LONDON—FAILURE BY GOVERNMENTS TO take bold action against global warming in the next decade could cost the world up to $6.98 trillion, a report warns.

Excerpts of a 700-page report to be released Monday by Sir Nicholas Stern, a former World Bank chief economist, also show that rampant climate change could turn 200 million people into refugees amid drought or flood.

The Observer weekly, which published the excerpts of a report it says is the first heavyweight contribution of an economist rather than a scientist on the phenomenon, also said failure to act would trigger a global recession.

"This will give us an argument to make," said a British government source quoted by the weekly. "I think we are at a tipping point in terms of the debate, as we were at a tipping point in 2004-2005 in terms of the science."

The Stern Review was commissioned by Britain's Cabinet office and finance ministry a year ago to understand better the nature of the economic challenges and how they can be met in Britain and around the world.

The Observer said the cost of unchecked climate change would amount to up to 3.68 trillion pounds (5.48 trillion euros, $6.98 trillion).

Unless the world acts, it costs more than World War I, World War II and the Great Depression of the 1930s while rendering large parts of the planet uninhabitable, The Observer said.

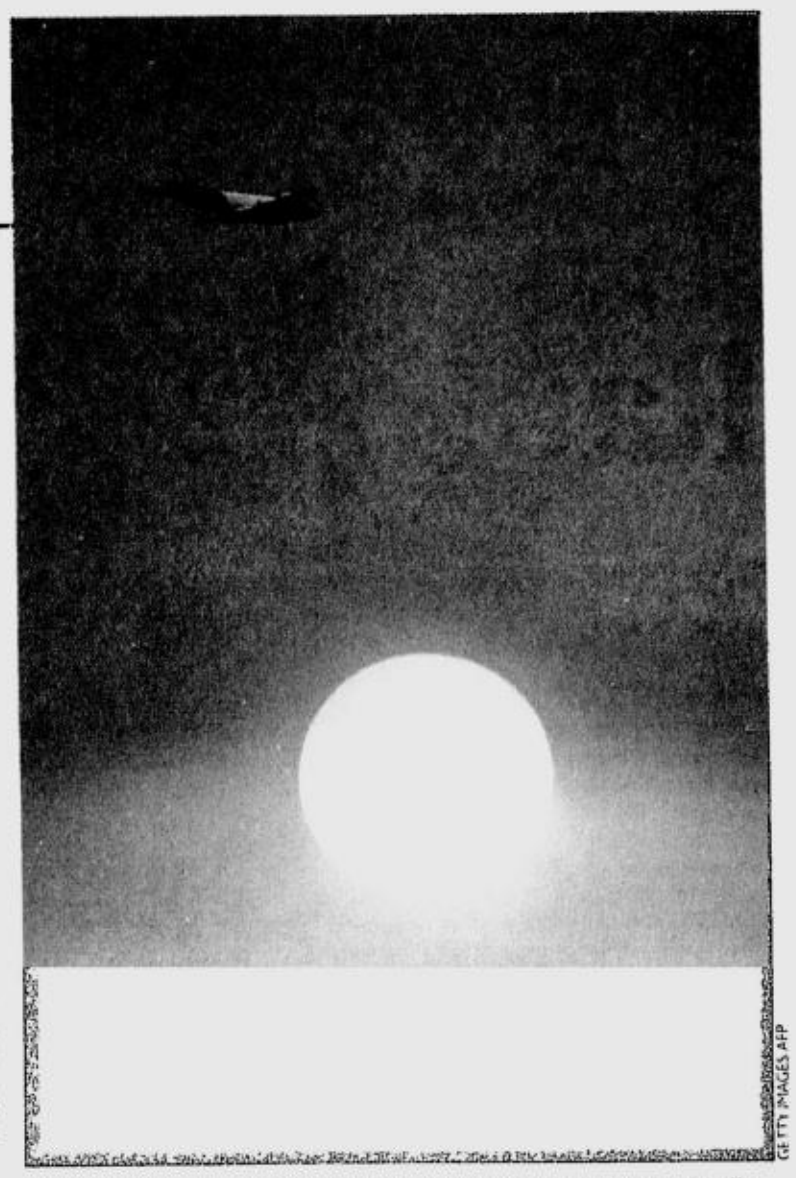
Even if the world stopped polluting immediately, it said, the slow-growing effects of carbon already in the atmosphere would continue to warm the planet for another 30 years, with sea levels rising for a century.

The Observer said Stern forecasts that the world needs to spend one percent of its annual gross domestic product, or about 184 billion pounds, to fight off global warming, or find the cost is between five times and 20 times higher.

Because the problem is so pressing, a successor to the Kyoto agreement on reducing greenhouse gases that cause climate change should be signed next year, rather than in 2010-2011 as planned, his report warns.

It calls for an international framework in a bid to stabilize not only temperatures but parts per million of carbon in the atmosphere. It would allow different countries to reduce emissions differently.

Britons, for example, face the prospect of a whole array of green taxes, such as on driving and flying. *AFP*



GETTY IMAGES AFP

FIERY DAY. An air tanker flies through a smoky sunset at the deadly Esperanza fire in the San Jacinto Mountains Oct. 27 near Banning, California. Four US Forest Service firefighters were killed and a fifth critically injured when a wall of flame swept over them on Oct. 26.

70 killed in Afghan raids—Nato

KABUL—NATO'S FORCE IN AFGHANISTAN said around 70 people were killed in raids targeting the Taliban this week but was still unsure how many were civilians after reports scores of ordinary people died.

The International Security Assistance Force admitted in a statement late Friday a "number of civilians were killed along with a large number of insurgents" in the Oct. 24 air strike in Kandahar province in the south.

"ISAF believes that around 70 individuals were killed," the statement said.

"We are satisfied that we identified and targeted a group of insurgents, but it is uncertain how many civilians were among the dead. In addition, it is unclear how many of the civilians were killed as a result of insurgent fire."

Nato's military commander Gen. James Jones apologized Saturday for civilian casualties in the province.

Jones blamed insurgents for the deaths, saying they had been using ordinary people as cover to avoid ISAF fire.

"In this particular case, sadly there appears to have been loss of life and innocent people who were wounded in a legitimate mission where insurgents were using the cover of the civilian population to make it very difficult for us to get at them," Jones told reporters.

He was speaking at Bagram Air Base at the end of a three-day trip to Afghanistan during which he met President Hamid Karzai and military leaders.

Residents of the Panjwayi area in the province have said between 60 and 85 civilians were killed in the late-night bombing raid, which started on the second day of the Eid holiday marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Some have said none of the dead were Taliban, but ISAF has said it believed 48 were militants, including from a group that attacked a base.

On Friday it said 12 of the dead were civilians, while the police put the figure at about 25 with a presidential-appointed commission and a separate ISAF and defense ministry team investigating the incident.

The latest incident, just under two weeks after 20 other civilians were reported killed in ISAF strikes in Kandahar and Helmand provinces, has added to concern about the number of locals being caught up in fighting between the Taliban and the military. *AFP*

UK cops seek ban on flag burners

LONDON—THE POLICE, FEARING THEY ARE perceived as too soft, are asking the British government to make flag-burning a crime as part of get-tough moves on Muslim extremists and others who sow religious hatred.

Tarique Ghaffur, the Metropolitan Police's most senior Muslim officer, told BBC radio that the proposal is among several submitted to Attorney General Lord Peter Goldsmith, the government's chief legal advisor.

Others include restrictions on the contents of protest banners as well as a ban on masks in order to prevent extremists from hiding from the police, said Ghaffur, who is the assistant commissioner in charge of public order in London.

"There appears to be a growing public perception that policing of demonstrations is unduly lenient," Ghaffur said. "That view was shared by law-abiding citizens of all backgrounds."

"The reason this is a great country is the tolerance of people," he added.

If people "start to see images of people who seem to be 'getting away with it,'" then people's tolerance "starts to erode," Ghaffur said.

The police wanted "a change in the law on the burning of flags—to make that illegal," he said.

Lord Goldsmith is preparing a package of announcements in November, according to a source close to the attorney general quoted by the BBC.

It said these are being debated among ministers who will decide how far existing laws can be used more effectively and consider police calls for changes in the law.

Ghaffur, who has been consulting with Lord Goldsmith, warned that senior officers are prepared to be firm with flag burners and extremists exploiting protests, whether or not the police appeals are heeded.

The senior officer told BBC radio that the proposals would be backed by the Muslim community because they clearly targeted the extremist minority.

He stressed that his proposal to prevent faces being covered during demonstrations was aimed at extremists who were hiding from the police rather than at women who wear the full-face veil, a right that is not being contested.

Britain has been embroiled in an angry debate over the right for women to wear the veil since Cabinet Minister Jack Straw said earlier this month that he asked women to remove theirs when they visit his constituency office. *AFP*

Trucks' exhaust linked to asthma

NEW YORK—A NEW YORK UNIVERSITY study has found that elementary school students in the South Bronx—home to some of the highest asthma hospitalization rates for children in the city—were exposed to high levels of air pollutants.

With the South Bronx home to miles of expressways and truck traffic from some of the busiest wholesale produce, meat and fish markets in the world, students there are twice as likely to attend a school near a highway as were children in other parts of New York City.

In 18 of the 69 days taken over the three year period in the South Bronx study, average daily exposure to fine-particle pollution for a group of 10 children exceeded the EPA's standards, which will be set to 35 micrograms per cubic meter in December.

"I think it's an indicator that these kids are being exposed to very high fine-particle concentrations on a fairly regular basis," said George Thurston, associate professor of environmental medicine at the NYU School of Medicine and one of the study's principal researchers. *NYT*

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ FEU in volley sweep; EAC Generals bag cage title/A30

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■ Manilans dominate MY Games; QC 2nd/A31

Ramirez set to resign after Asiad

By June Navarro

WILLIAM "BUTCH" RAMIREZ doesn't want to be known as the most decorated chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission.

For him, to own a name without a stain is good enough.

Ramirez yesterday confirmed reports that he would relinquish his post as PSC chief right after serving as Chef de Mission of the Philippine delegation to the 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, on Dec. 1-15.

"*Para sa akin, tama na* (It's enough for me)," said Ramirez, who will leave the PSC as its most successful chair after spearheading Team Philippines to its first Southeast Asian Games overall title last year.

Two years after taking over the PSC reins, Ramirez said he would formally file his resignation after the Asian Games. In fact, he had already told President Macapagal-Arroyo about it.

RAMIREZ: If I leave, I want to keep my name clean

"The President knows it but what we talked about I can't divulge," said Ramirez. "I'm grateful to President Arroyo and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

"*Kung aalis ako, ang gusto ko malinis ang pangalan ko* (If I leave, I want to keep my name clean)," added Ramirez, the seventh PSC chair after Cecil Hechanova, Aparicio Mequi, Mel Lopez Jr., Philip Juico, Carlos "Butch" Tuason and Eric Buhain.

Ramirez joined the PSC in 2000 as a commissioner during the Estrada administration. After Buhain moved on as chair of the Games and Amusements Board, Mrs Arroyo appointed Ramirez as officer in charge of the PSC in January, 2005.

The 56-year-old Ramirez officially became PSC chair on July 7 last year. Under his watch, the Philippine Sports Institute was revived and a unified sports program was implemented.

The improved relationship between the PSC and the Philippine Olympic Committee, the creation of bilateral sports ties with China and the improvement of the athletes' welfare were among his accomplishments.

But the greatest legacy Ramirez will leave behind was as Chef de Mission of the RP team that won the overall championship of the 23rd SEA Games that the Philippines hosted last year.

Ramirez said he plans to return to his hometown in Davao City, spend more time with his family and work for the Sports for Peace program of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte.

Being floated as his possible replacement were PSC commissioner Ritchie Garcia, former commissioner Ray Roquero and Presidential adviser on sports and youth Ali Atienza.

Gomez, Taiwan bet make it to WPC

THE PHILIPPINES' Roberto Gomez and Chinese Taipei's Nien Rong-chih topped the first two qualifying sessions on Saturday to make it to the main draw of the 2006 Philippine World Pool Championship slated Nov. 4 to 13 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

The 26-year-old Gomez, known in the local billiards scene for his nerves of steel in the money game, overcame Oi Naoyuki of Japan, 9-6, in the finals of the first session at the Star Billiards Center in Grace Village in Quezon City.

Nien trounced Chien Chin-ju, 9-4, in the all-Taiwanese final of the second session to also advance to the group play on Nov. 4.

Ten slots are still up for grabs in the series of qualifying sessions prior to the World Pool Championship, where 116 of the game's finest players have either been seeded or have pre-qualified.

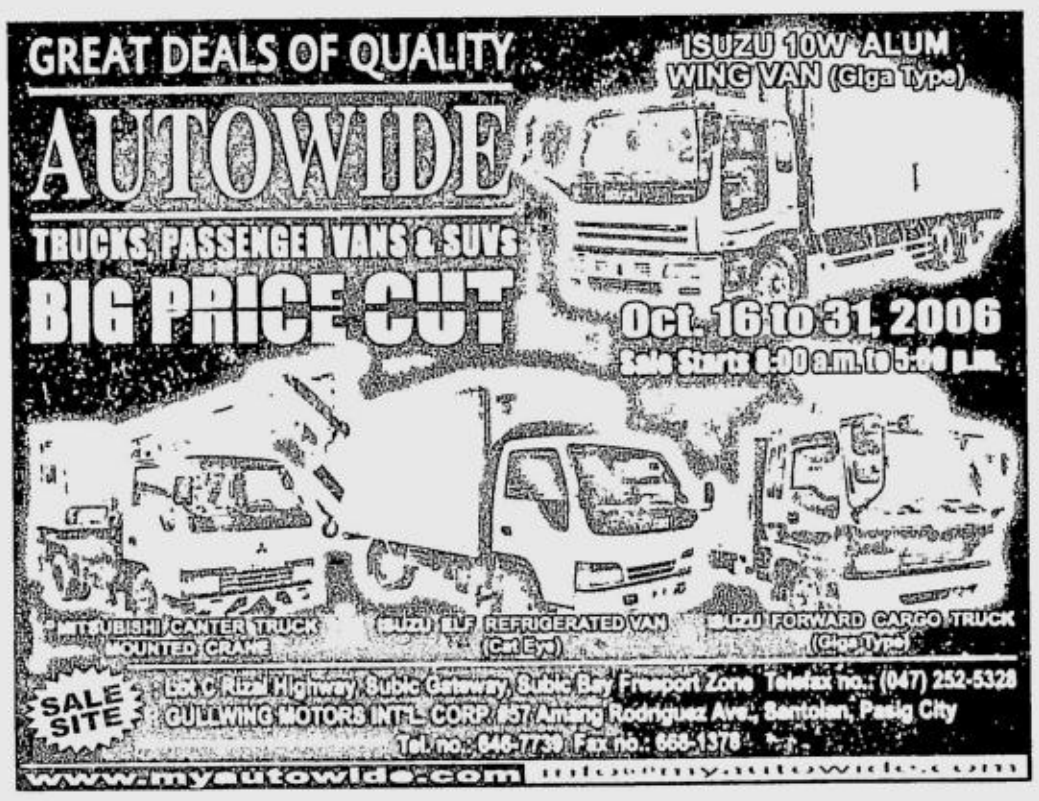
The third session was still being played last night with Filipinos Leonardo Andam, Ramon Mistica and Ismael Rota vying for the single main-draw slot at stake.

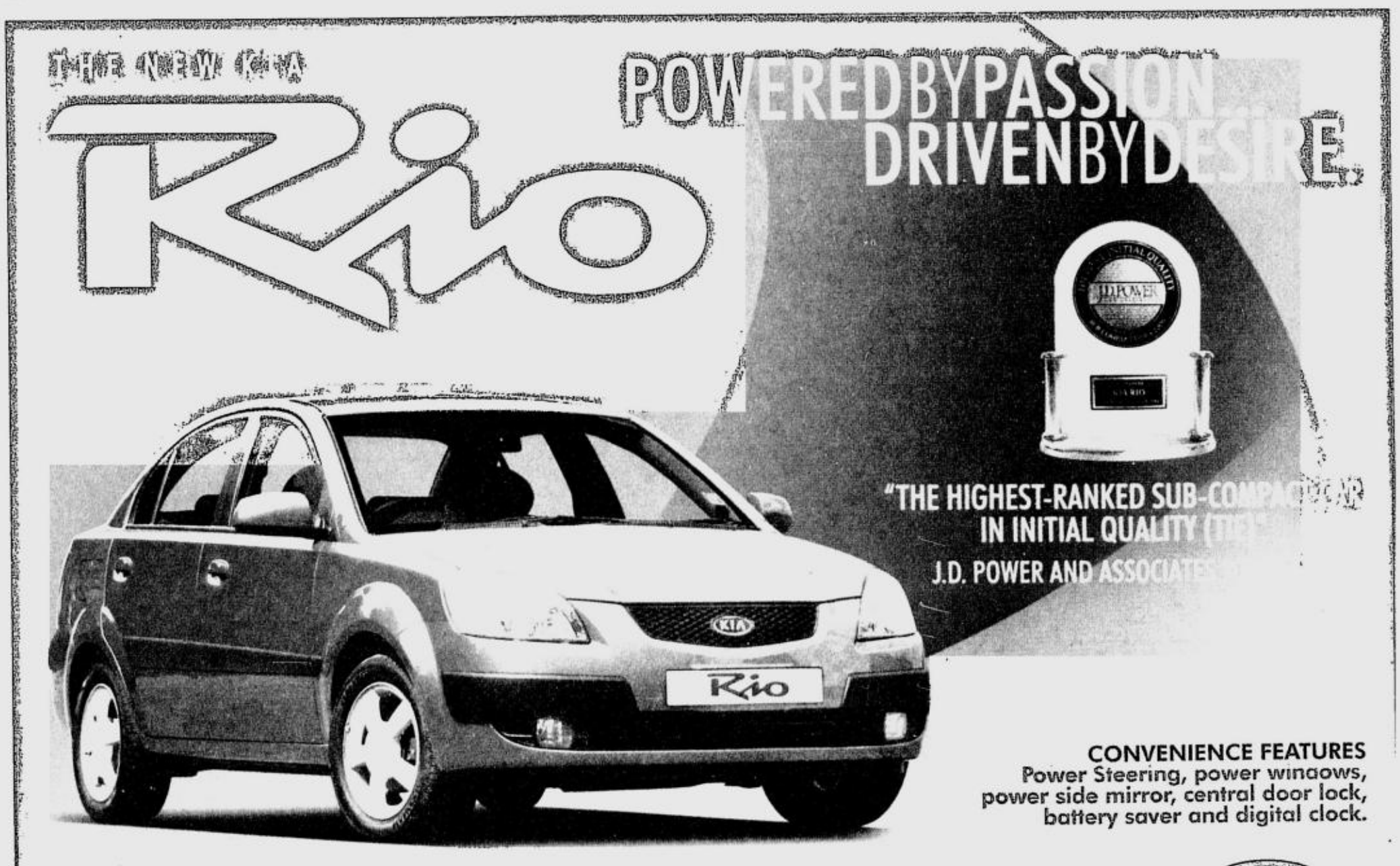
Gomez became the 14th RP entry in the tough 9-ball event that offers $100,000 to the champion.

On his way to the finals, Gomez beat Japan's Hisashi Kusano, 7-5, and Tomoo Takano, 7-6, two-time World Junior 9-Ball champion Hui Kai-hsia, 7-5, and fellow Filipino Rene Mar David, 7-3, and Warren Kiamco, 7-2.

Among Nien's victims were WPC veteran Max Eberle, 7-4, and Filipinos Jherome Peña, 7-5, and Lee Vann Corteza, 7-1.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor





The Zone tops Battle of Courts badminton third leg

J.D. DE JESUS AND LEN DIONISIO RECOVERED from an opening-set loss to beat Jopet Sison and Elaine La'O, 12-21, 21-15, 21-17, in the deciding mixed doubles play as The Zone survived a gutsy RSC-Premier, 2-1, yesterday to rule the third and last elimination leg of the Battle of the Courts badminton tournament at the Las Piñas Badminton Center.

In a rematch of the finalists of the inaugural Battle of the Courts two years ago, The Zone of Makati re-asserted its might anew with long-time partners de Jesus and Dionisio securing the clincher after both teams split the first two matches.

RSC-Premier put The Zone in a bind when Manric Zalamea/Adian Go stunned Bubu Santos/Alvin Ballesteros, 21-18, 21-18. But The Zone bounced back through its ladies doubles entries of Jem Padilla and Lhit Pascual, who outlasted Noreen Go and Rommie Tan, 21-19, 21-18.

The Zone and RSC-Premier reached the finals by sweeping QCSC and Match Play, respectively, in the semifinals of the event presented by Rush Fitness Water, INQUIRER Badminton and Mizuno Badminton.

The other sponsors of the Battle are Duty Free Philippines, BSI medicated spray, Unilever and Gerflor Taraflex as the official mat. Radio partners are Wave 89.1 and 92.3 Joey.

The last four qualifiers will join eight other squads who had earlier clinched slots to the finals. They are Manila Polo, Valle Verde, Club 650 and Excel of Pampanga from the second leg and Peregrine, Centro Atletico, Philippine National Police and Alabang Racquet Club.

QCSC and Match Play topped Group I with 4-0 and 3-1 win-loss records, respectively while RSC-Premier and The Zone tied for the top spot in Group 2 with 4-1 slates.

Already assured of slots to the semis, The Zone and RSC-Premier did not show up for their eliminations match. RSC-Premier, however, took the No. 1 slot after a tiebreak.

FEU caps UniGames romp with volleyball title sweep

By Cedelf P. Tupas
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—FAR EASTERN UNIversity punctuated an awe-inspiring performance with another volleyball sweep yesterday, even as Emilio Aguinaldo College clinched its third men's basketball crown in four years at the close of the 11th National University Games here.

The Tamaraws walloped Philippine Christian University, 25-20, 25-19, 25-18, in less than an hour to retain their title, before the Lady Tamaraws pulled off a scrambling 25-21, 23-25, 25-18, 25-23 win over the Santo Tomas volleybelles at the St. La Salle College covered court.

The twin kill hiked the Tamaraws' title haul to five in the weeklong Games. FEU also topped men's badminton and men's table tennis and women's athletics and missed the men's athletics title only by a single gold.

De La Salle, fielding a total of 11 squads here, and College of St. Benilde shared second overall with three crowns apiece.

The Archers claimed a record eighth straight title in women's football, following victories in women's swimming and women's chess, while CSB swept both divisions in lawn tennis and ruled women's table tennis.

MEMBERS of the Emilio Aguinaldo College squad celebrate their third victory in four years in basketball. ANDY ALVAREZ

Host St. La Salle retained its men's football crown and reigned supreme in sepak takraw. Also making their presence felt were Ateneo de Manila (women's basketball) San Beda (men's swimming), University of the East (men's taekwondo), Santo Tomas (men's athletics) and John B. Lacson Colleges Foundation (women's taekwondo).

In the last match of the Games, the Generals went on a first-quarter tear on their way to a relatively easy 79-67 win over the Adamson Falcons at the St. La Salle Coliseum.

Ronjay Buenafe topscored for the Generals with 28 points, while Alain Musni and Chester Ebuen added 17 and 14, respectively.

Miñoza ties for 15th with 4-under 68

MIÑOZA

HYOGO, JAPAN—Frankie Miñoza regained his fiery form on the front nine of the final round Sunday, shot a four-under-par 68 and finished in a six-way tie for 15th place in the Y120,000,000 ABC Championship here.

Hobbled by successive 74s after opening with a 67 Thursday, the 47-year-old top Filipino shotmaker rallied with birdies on four of his first six holes on the par-72 ABC Golf Club course here.

He hit the turn with a 32, dropped a stroke on the par-3 16th but recovered it with another birdie on the 18th.

Miñoza wound up with a 72-hole total of five-under 283 to win Y1,776,000 (about $10,000) in this 24th of 29 legs on the rich Japan Golf Tour. He is expected to move up from his previous ranking of 44th with total earnings of Y19,621,437 so far.

Defending champion Shingo Katayama of Japan retained his title with a magnificent rally, shooting a tournament best 62 then nipping YE Yang of Taiwan in a playoff after both men finished tied for first at 17-under 271.

Katayama, distinctive figure on the course with his cowboy hat, had earlier rounds of 71-790-68. Yang, who led the first round with a 66 then scored 71-69, closed out with a 65.

SPORTSWATCH

Top AF3 drivers to guest in PSA Forum

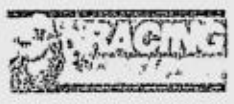
AFTER THE WELL-ATTENDED ASIAN FORMULA THREE STREET DRIVE ON Friday, focus shifts to the last four rounds of the 2006 racing season on Nov. 4 and 5 at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Majority of the drivers seeing action in the last leg of the series will be guesting in a special edition of the PSA Forum tomorrow at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila. Also guesting in the 10:30 a.m. session sponsored by Pagcor, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Manila Sports Council head Ali Atienza are officials of the AF3 led by chair Eddie Peña, team principals and candidates to the Ms AF3 Pageant.

90 fights set in SJC derby today

ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE SAN JUAN COLISEUM TODAY AS THE DEAN'S Cup 5-Stag derby kicks off at 2 p.m. featuring 90 fights with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and GCAP as main backers. Invited by host Dean Joson of Nueva Ecija are regular derby participants from Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Bulacan, Pampanga, Zambales, Pangasinan and Ilocos who will challenge Metro Manila's leading cockers. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 725-5665. Meanwhile, promoter Bobbit Ples will host the "Ubusan Ng Lahi" 4-stag derby this Thursday. Entry deadline is on Wednesday. Ples said 50 leading gamefowl breeders have confirmed their participation. Also slated at SJC is the elimination round of the National Bakbakan 9-Stag Derby on Friday.

BBC 'Bakbakan' 2nd elims up at Big Dome

STAGFIGHT ACTION HEATS UP TODAY WITH THE SECOND ELIMINATION round of the Batangas Breeders Club's national Bakbakan preliminaries at the Araneta Coliseum. The first of 90 matches featuring entries from the second batch of 60 top breeders from the provinces of Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Batangas and Quezon kick off at 2 p.m. The first part of this two-stage event, held on Wednesday at the Makati Coliseum, produced 24 three-pointers out of 51 entries, led by Cavite's Jenjen Arayat of Agilahas Game Farm who had three entries scoring three wins each and two others posting 2-1 win-loss cards. Also producing sterling performances were Manny Perez with his entry Invincible WTJ, Dexter and Chris Tiu (DNC Kaibigan), Muroy Dolorico (Sir Dennis) and Alex Bauan (I love My Alkatrich), among others.



BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Ort/Tri)—Incorruptible/Words of Joy (1), Honoree (5), Extreme Romance (6), Binukalan's Pride (3)

Race 2—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Lady Inday (6), Silver Anna (8), Madam Leonora (9), Royal Halo (5), Macalelon (1)

Race 3—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Desert Breeze (3), He's A Balong (5), Gigi's Gold (9), Star Emblem/My Sheikh (8), Expiditer (1)

Race 4—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Venus D'Goddess (8), Tigerific (5), Kalbigan (4), Jade Express (6)

Race 5—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Joint Account (9), Tiger Raffy (7), Lightning Strike (6), Reason To Believe (1), Casanova (4)

Race 6—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Septenarian (4), True Account (6), Queen Esther (11), Sweet Luvin (5), Azukarera De Mama (10)

Race 7—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Blondie Baj (6), Kiwi Rose (5), Head Turner (7), Just A Moment (8), Mainstay (2)

Race 8—(Super 6/Ort/Tri)—Be My Pride (10), Inca (1), Raven (9), Gone With The Wind (7), Hazit Coming (3), Chicklet (11)

Baguio runners rule Milo La Union race

SAN FERNANDO CITY, LA UNION—Runners from Baguio City dominated the regional race of the 30th Milo Marathon here yesterday.

Marson Tarcelo, a security guard of Sidekick Force Investigation and Detective Services in Baguio, and Vietnam Southeast Asian Games veteran Flordeliza Cachero-Carreon topped the 21K qualifying runs.

The 31-year-old Tarcelo, who led from start to finish, clocked one hour, 13 minutes and 25 seconds in capturing his first leg title in this annual foot race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar.

Baguio runners Orlando Carolino (1:16:44) and Joanes Jimenez (1:18:51) placed second and third, respectively.

Carreon, a physical education teacher at Irisan National High School, finished the women's race in 1:23:19 and was actually the fifth 21K runner to cross the finish line in front of the San Fernando City Hall.

TARCELO

CARREON

Flordeliza Donos was second in 1:48:06 and Rashel Peña came home third in 2:02:04.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's races made it to the national finals slated Dec. 10 in Metro Manila.

Edison Manansala and Alice Aparri also of Baguio City captured the men's and women's titles in the 5K fun run.

Manansala taught the Andaya brothers, 18-year-old Pacino and 17-year-old Giovanni, a neat lesson in middle-distance running by topping the race in 16 minute 22 seconds. Pacino came in 29 seconds later followed closely by Giovanni.

Aparri, on the other hand, was virtually unchallenged, finishing in 20:32. Ronijean Sofla placed second at 21:05 and Manilyn Sarmiento was third at 22:14.

In the kiddies 3K race, Renz Aquino and Jeziel Bangtay prevailed in the 6-9 age group and Matan Bugnosen and Lory May Abrero in the 10-12 category.

San Fernando City Mayor Mary Jane Ortega fired the gun that flagged off the 1,970 runners. She later helped Milo Sports Events executive Pat Goc-ong in awarding the trophies and medals to the top 10 winners in each race category.

The 25th race in this year's 30-leg schedule will be held in Iligan City this Sunday.

No beauty contest for macho Morales

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

FIVE DAYS AFTER REGISTERING 142 pounds, Erik Morales rode the scales and weighed an amazing 137 lb.

This was how Top Rank bossman Bob Arum related the fantastic development to broadcaster Ronnie Nathanielsz last week.

Arum must've sounded as though he had discovered a constellation of reserved strength inside Morales' aging body.

"Manny Pacquiao would be in for a big surprise," Arum was quoted as warning.

Maybe Arum expected Pacquiao to shudder in fear?

Well, if Pacquiao did not end up laughing, he must've brushed off Arum's statement as another fat lie.

Arum did not indicate if he had personally checked Morales on the scales.

* * *

The grand old man of prizefight promotions may not be bluffing. He could, in fact, be reporting what he had witnessed.

But it was easier to believe Arum, this time out, had made Morales ride a shaky, sympathetic hotel room weighing machine.

Yes, if Morales had instantly lost five pounds in five days, he could be in for deeper trouble. It's like this: Morales registering 137 on an official machine must instead be a cause for worry among his backers and close supporters who know their boxing.

* * *

No. Arum couldn't be accused of deluding himself. He definitely knows his boxing, more than Don King.

But wasn't Morales progressing normally, shedding poundage carefully and gradually, under the supervision of experts?

At least, this was what we were made to believe before Morales moved up to the Otomi Mountains training site in Mexico from his camp in Los Angeles.

* * *

Meanwhile, around the same time, Pacquiao jumped onto the scales and registered 138 lb—work shoes, shorts and shirt on.

Trainer Freddie Roach next claimed his prized pupil was easily 136 lb.

That would mean Morales was nothing more than a pound behind Pacquiao in the run-off to their Nov. 17 official weigh-in.

* * *

Now, there was every reason for Arum to be triumphant.

But, at the same time, he could be dangerously trapped in that mode when he had started to believe the Grand Finale would be decided on the weighing scales.

No kidding. This was not the first time this had been said of how fighters could also get overly assertive with their weight and figure.

In the process, these same fighters overlook the fact that making the weight and staying in fighting shape is not one and the same thing.

* * *

Listen, please. Arum could be perfectly happy only if Morales would be joining a beauty pageant, and not going to war, which promises to be the fiercest in his career.

So, did they have to punish Morales?

Five pounds in five days was not exactly normal, based on the announced Morales regimen.

Morales may indeed look great, he could breeze past the official scales, but how much of the old steady fighter would be left in his old, drained system?

* * *

To repeat, Morales won't be joining a beauty contest.

Warned police superintendent Pat Piñol of North Cotabato: "Fine if it would be a beauty contest, Morales could just walk down the ramp after all the shedding and the trimming down. But it's not. It would be a rumble in the jungle. *Makikipag-bugbugan siya*. Let's see if he could survive Pacman."

Supt. Piñol was right. Balance and propriety should have been the theme of the Morales regimen. No quick fix, no cutting corners, please.

Anyway, it was just fine for Arum to have warned Pacquiao to watch out—Morales would be sharper, stronger.

But did the Top Rank big boss sincerely believe the fierce fight would be decided on a silly weight war?

Paragua lifts Agusan A to inter-province lead

GRANDMASTER MARK PARAGUA defeated NM Oliver Barbosa to lift Agusan Del Sur "A" to a 2.5-1.5 victory Saturday over overnight solo frontrunner Rizal province and grab the lead after the fifth round of the National Inter-Provincial Chess Team Championships at the Limketkai Mall in Cagayan de Oro.

Agusan "A" now has 4.5 points in this nine-round Swiss match point system format.

Christian Arroyo trounced Arnel Penero on board 4 while Rainer Labay drew with Macapagal Paguital on board 3. David Elorta saved a point for Rizal by crushing Samson Lim on board 2.

Rizal was stuck at 4.0 points and dropped into a tie for second place with Tagaytay City A, Zambales, Surigao del Sur, Tagoloan and Tandag Chess Circle.

GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. led defending champion Tagaytay to a 3-1 win over Bukidnon-DAR, while Surigao del Sur, bannered by IM Ronald Dableo, nipped Misamis Oriental A, 3.5-0.5.

GM Nelson Mariano II powered Zambales to a 3-1 win over Bohol. *Marlon Bernardino*

Manilans dominate MY Games; QC 2nd

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANILA DOMINATED TAEKWONdo as expected to cap its runaway overall victory in the 2nd Manila Youth Games national invitational last night at the San Andres Gym.

The host city, which pulled away beyond reach at the end of track and field competitions on Thursday, showcased its strength in the sixth and last sport disputed by clinching four of the 12 gold medals in taekwondo.

The Big City athletes collected 54 golds overall on top of 37 silvers and 34 bronzes, handily beating Quezon City which finished with a gold-silver-bronze haul of 21-21-23.

Laguna was third with 10-6-8, followed by Baguio City 9-15-10, Muntinlupa City 9-12-13, Candon City 7-12-7 and Taguig City 5-4-8.

Regine Lumbo kicked off Manila's taekwondo romp with a win in the grade school girls' 137-144-centimeter event before teammates Casia Pineda (161-180cm), Philip John Pineda (grade school boys' 137-144cm) and Kiri Barbosa (boys' 145-152cm) followed suit.

Quezon City plucked two in taekwondo through Hannah Mendoza (grade school girls' 145-152cm) and Rogine Lumbo (grade school boys' 153-160 cm).

Also winning in the grade school girls' divisions were Farah Regis of Cavite in the 128 cm-under, Chicky Villanueva of Tuguegarao in the 129-136 cm, and Anne Nuguid in the 153-160 cm.

Prevailing in the grade school boys were Joshua David of Muntinlupa in the 128 cm-under, James Cruz of Muntinlupa in the 129-136 cm, and Gerry del Rosario of Cavite in the 161-180 cm.

Manila won 34 golds in athletics, with Quezon City managing to snare 15 at the Rizal Memorial Stadium. Other sports played in the Games were softball, baseball, football and badminton.

Candon City proved a revelation by grabbing seven golds in track and field despite sending just 22 athletes.

Rhealyn Pascua put a face in Candon City's brave showing when she was named the "Best Athlete" of the week-long meet after winning three gold medals in the girls' 12-under baseball throw, 100-meter dash and long jump.

The barefoot wonder, who was given a scholarship by MYG chief organizer Ali Atienza, amassed 48 points.

Pascua beat Justin Tabunda (24.5 points), a five-gold medal winner for Manila in the 13-15 class, and Rolando de Ramos (24.5 points), the host city's 16-17 bet who also bagged five golds.

MUNTINLUPA'S Nelmar delos Santos (red) unleashes a roundhourse kick against Parañaque's James Paul Lamos in their gold-medal match. Delos Santos won. ERIK ARAZAS

Tagaytay Spring five zaps Cellular in OT

CALAMBA, LAGUNA—TAGAYtay Spring needed extra time to shake off a two-week lull and overcome Cellular Pawnshop, 103-98, Friday night in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the Letran College gymnasium here.

With Cellular holding a 94-91 edge at the 3:52 mark in overtime, Aldrin Morante, who led all scorers with 28 points, drilled in five straight markers to give the Tagaytay dribblers of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and his executive VP, Mayor Bambol Tolentino, the lead for good.

Lanky Ferdie Go and Andrew Salud tried to get Cellular Pawnshop back on the driver's seat, but Morante and Nani Epondulan combined to foil their rivals' bid.

It was the fourth win in five games for Tagaytay.

Cellular remained in the cellar with a 0-5 card.

The scores:

TAGAYTAY 103—Morante 28, Tajonera 14, Epondulan 10, Reyes 8, Guiyab 8, Genido 7, Mallari 7, Yambao 7, Neo 5, Capobres 4, Finullar 3, Barnson 2.

CELLULAR 98—Go 26, Tiongson 15, Salud 12, Balares 11, Ico 9, Dela Rea 6, Aquino 5, Giron 5, Sargio 3, Ober 2, Aclon 2, Taligatos 2, Turato 0.

Quarters: 22-24, 52-39, 66-55, 88-88

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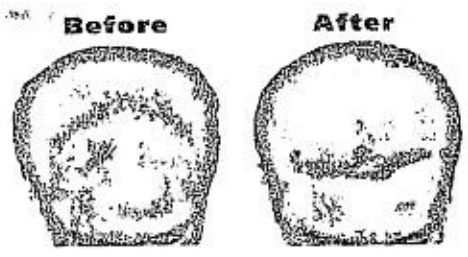

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RP golfers hopelessly outclassed

A FIVE-WAY RACE for the Eisenhower Cup shaped up after a torrid scoring in the third round that left the Philippines hopelessly outclassed in the World Amateur Golf Team Championship in Stellenbosch, South Africa, on Saturday.

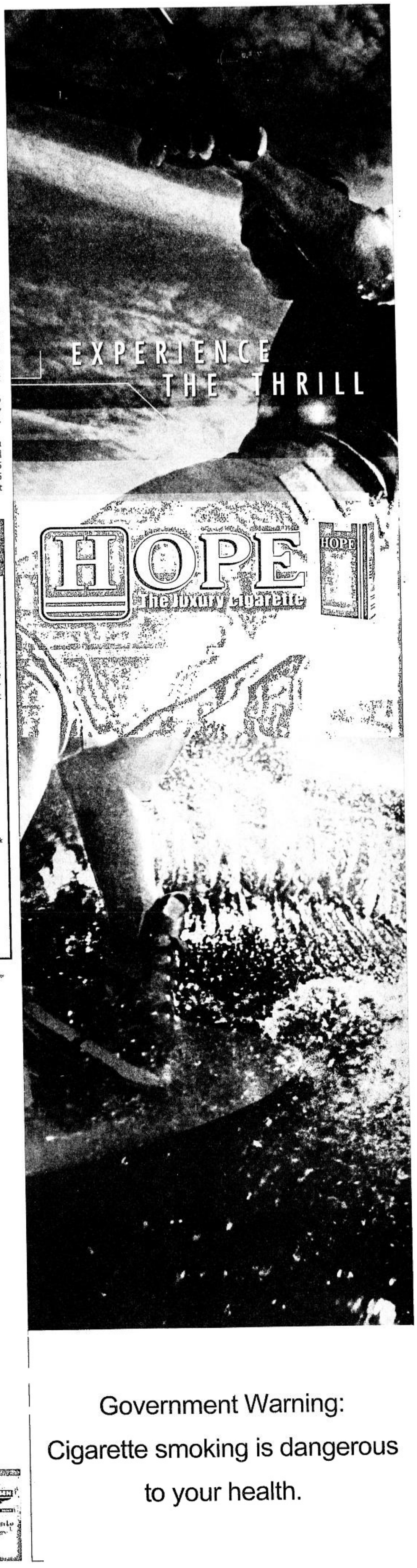
The Netherlands snatched a two-shot lead over defending champion United States, Canada and hard-charging Wales with an eight-under-par score of 136 for a 417 total.

Wales came through with the day's best score of 132 to jump from 15th to joint second at 419 with the Americans, who had a 140 for the day, and the Canadians, who turned in a three-under 141.

South Korea also stayed within striking distance with a 138 for the day and a 421.

But the Filipinos could do no better than a 10-over 154 with Jay Bayron carding a 73 and Michael Bibat an 81. The third Filipino, Marvin Dumandan, had an 84 that did not count.

The Filipinos stood in a tie for 41st with Zimbabwe with a 458.



Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

SPORTS

His victory cigar transcended everything

BOSTON—IN THE DAYS BEFORE THE SURGEON general's warning, it would have been more unthinkable if an imminent Celtics victory weren't heralded by plumes of smoke emanating from a cigar that was roughly as large as the team's lead.

The man doing the contented puffing, of course, was Red Auerbach. But he wasn't merely luxuriating in the moment by indulging in his favorite vice. As so often was the case, there was far more to Auerbach's symbolism than the obvious. To Red, a good smoke was as much a matter of tweaking as taste. This was the precursor to trash talking; call it trash toking.

Auerbach had offered two explanations of the ritual's origin and purpose.

He once told the Globe, "It's like this: I got sick and tired of coaches playing for the TV. They'd be 20 points ahead with two minutes to go and they'd be calling plays, waving their arms, showing off. My feeling was, when you knew the game was over, then sit down and shut up.

"Back then, a lot of the coaches smoked. I don't like cigarettes—never touched 'em. But I do like a good cigar."

Especially if it caused his adversaries to choke on the fumes. Such was the situation with the other explanation for the advent of the victory cigar, as Auerbach explained to Sports Illustrated:

"Years ago, when [the NBA hierarchy] were picking on me for a hundred different things, I tried to think of something to aggravate them. They were abusing me.

"I lighted a cigar all of a sudden. I got a note: 'It doesn't look good for you to smoke cigars on the bench.' I told them I'd stop when the other coaches stopped smoking cigarettes.

"Some of the coaches got aggravated. They thought I was lording it over them. The cigar is a sign of relaxation. The cigarette is a sign of tension. I explained to them that it was an endorsement, that I get money and all the cigars I can smoke. That calmed them down. Why stop a guy from making a buck? However, the fans think this is a major thing."

For good reason. Whatever its intent, Auerbach's triumphal gesture made an astounding impact.

It even transcended planetary limitations. As Auerbach reminisced to the Globe, "It became a charismatic thing. Years later, even the astronauts were talking about 'Red's victory cigar.' I got a real kick out of that." *NYT News Service*

IT WOULD often rile opponents, the way Red Auerbach would relax at the end of the bench and puff on a cigar in every home game where a Celtics victory was imminent. AP

Red, 89

Architect of greatest basketball dynasty dies of heart attack

WASHINGTON—HIS GENIUS WAS BUILDING a basketball dynasty in Boston, his gift was straight talk, his signature was the pungent cigar he lit up and savored after every victory.

Red Auerbach, the Hall of Famer who guided the Celtics to 16 championships—first as a coach and later as general manager—died Saturday. He was 89.

Auerbach died of a heart attack near his home in Washington, according to an NBA official, who didn't want to be identified. His last public appearance was on Wednesday, when he received the US Navy's Lone Sailor Award in front of family and friends at a ceremony in the nation's capital.

Auerbach's death was announced by the Celtics, who still employed him as team president. Next season will be dedicated to him, they said.

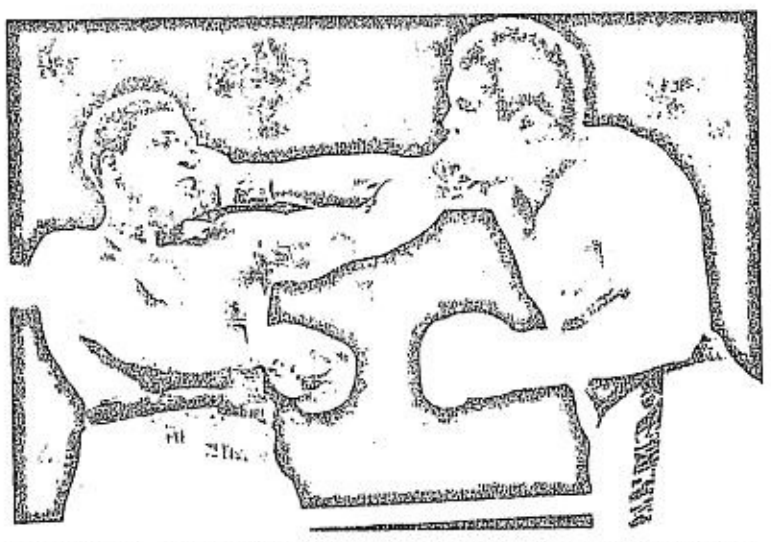
Auerbach's 938 victories made him the winningest coach in NBA history until Lenny Wilkens overtook him during the 1994-95 season. His nine titles as a coach came in the 1950s and 1960s—including eight straight from 1959 through 1966—and then through shrewd deals and foresight he became the architect of Celtics teams that won seven more championships in the 1970s and 1980s.

Auerbach was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1969. The jersey No. 2 was retired by the Celtics in his honor during the 1984-85 season.

With the Celtics, he made deals that brought Bill Russell, Robert Parish and Kevin McHale to Boston. He drafted Larry Bird a year early when the Indiana State star was a junior to make sure Bird would come to Boston.

He coached championship teams that featured players such as Russell, Bob Cousy, Tom Heinsohn, Bill Sharman, KC Jones and Sam Jones, all inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Phil Jackson matched Auerbach's record nine championships when the Los Angeles Lakers won the title in 2001-02. *AP*



TREVOR Berbick (left), was the man who last fought Muhammad Ali and who Mike Tyson used as his first step to success.

Former heavyweight champion found dead

KINGSTON, JAMAICA—FORMER heavyweight boxing champion Trevor Berbick was found dead in a church courtyard Saturday with chop wounds to his head in a suspected homicide.

Berbick, who was believed to be 52 and was beset by legal problems following his retirement from the ring, lost his heavyweight title to Mike Tyson and was the last boxer to fight Muhammad Ali.

Berbick's body was discovered about 6:30 a.m. in his hometown parish of Portland, constable Beverly Howell said. He was pronounced dead by a local doctor in the courtyard. Police are treating Berbick's death as a homicide, Inspector Victor Henry said.

After beating Ali in 1981 in an unanimous decision in the Bahamas, Berbick went on to win the WBC heavyweight title four years later in a decision over Pinklon Thomas.

His reign was short, however, as a 20-year-old Tyson knocked Berbick out in the second round of their bout on Nov. 22, 1986, to become the youngest heavyweight champion in history. *AP*

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BUSINESS

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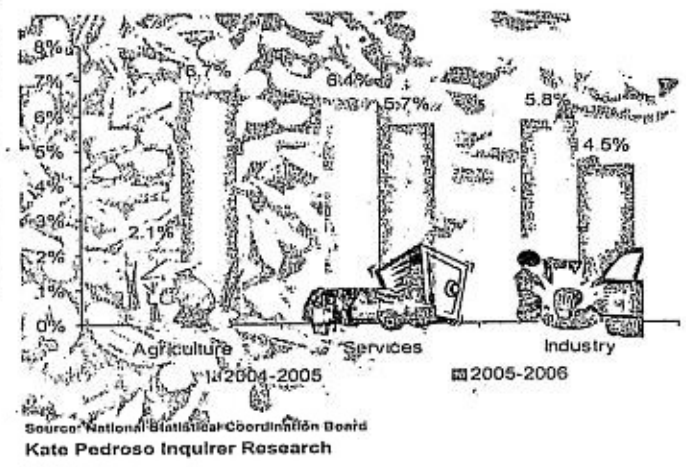
Higher growth, lower inflation seen till '07

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

GDP growth bolstered by Agri sector performance
(2nd quarter of 2006)

Agriculture, fishery and forestry sectors grew 6.7 percent in the second quarter of the year, offsetting the decelerated growths of the industry and services sectors.



Source: National Statistical Coordination Board
Kate Pedroso Inquirer Research

Private economists more optimistic on economy

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES CAN ATTAIN HIGHER ECONOMIC GROWTH and lower inflation rates this year and in 2007 than what had been expected a quarter ago, according to results of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' latest survey of private financial institutions monitoring the country.

The BSP's third-quarter survey among 17 private institutions indicated that the average inflation forecasts for 2006 and 2007 were significantly revised down in view of softening global oil prices and a strengthening peso.

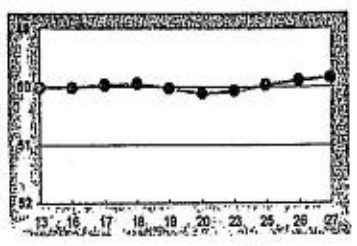
The average inflation forecast for 2006 in the latest survey declined to 6.6 percent from 6.9 percent in the previous quarter, the BSP said in a report released Friday.

For 2007, the average forecast also went down to 5.3 percent from the previous quarter's 5.7 percent.

"Most analysts cited the easing in world oil prices and the strengthening of the peso as factors that could help limit price pressures. The favorable outlook for the agriculture sector is also expected to keep down food infla-

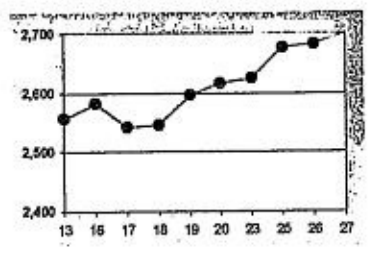
HIGHER/ B4

INDICATORS



₱49.820 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 27, 2006



Bullish run seen to continue

SHARE PRICES MAY CONTINUE TO TRADE on positive sentiment driven by better-than-expected third-quarter results, analysts said.

AB Capital Securities said in a weekly note to clients that local share prices continued to defy gravity as it barged to a nine-year high.

Last Friday, the PSEi closed at 2,702.37, its best finish since July 14, 1997, when it hit 2,710.73.

Edgar Bancod, head of research at ATR Kim Eng Securities, said robust third-quarter results were likely to sustain interest in stocks in the near term. He said he expected good profit results from property firm Megaworld Corp. due to strong real estate sales, and branded snacks food company Universal Robina Corp. due to improved margins and asset sales and higher trading profits.

Banking stocks were also expected to show healthy profits from higher spreads, which translated to better returns on their investments relative to the cost of their funds.

AB Capital also said it expected positive results from telecommunication firms helped

BULLISH / B3

DRIVE VS TAX CHEATS

BIR taps barangay execs

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue will tap the assistance of barangay captains in going after tax cheats and shoring up revenue collection.

Being more familiar with the businesses that operate in their barangay, the BIR said these local executives were in a position to provide taxpayer information to the BIR.

The move to ask assistance from barangay captains is part of the BIR's Tax Enhancement Vehicle for Economic Stability (Teves) program, which is being pushed by Rep. Herminio Teves of the House committee on ways and means.

Under the Teves program, one of the measures aimed at helping the BIR plug its shortfall and meet its full-year tax collection goal is for the BIR and local government units (LGUs) to cooperate closely.

The information that the BIR could get from LGUs will help make it determine who are the unregistered businesses or who are under-declaring their incomes. On the other, LGUs benefit because they get a share of the revenues collection by the national government through the BIR.

Under the National Internal Revenue Code, 40 percent of the national government's revenue collection for a year should be set

BIR TAPS/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

UPS eyes Clark for intra-Asia warehousing hub /B2

Lies, damned lies, and PAL-CebuPac statistics /B4

Gov't moves to curb ITH abuse/B7

Stanchart expects 48.50:$1 rate early next year

BRITISH BANKING GIANT STANDARD Chartered Bank sees the peso further climbing to 48.50 to $1 by the first quarter of 2007 on the back of the country's strong external position.

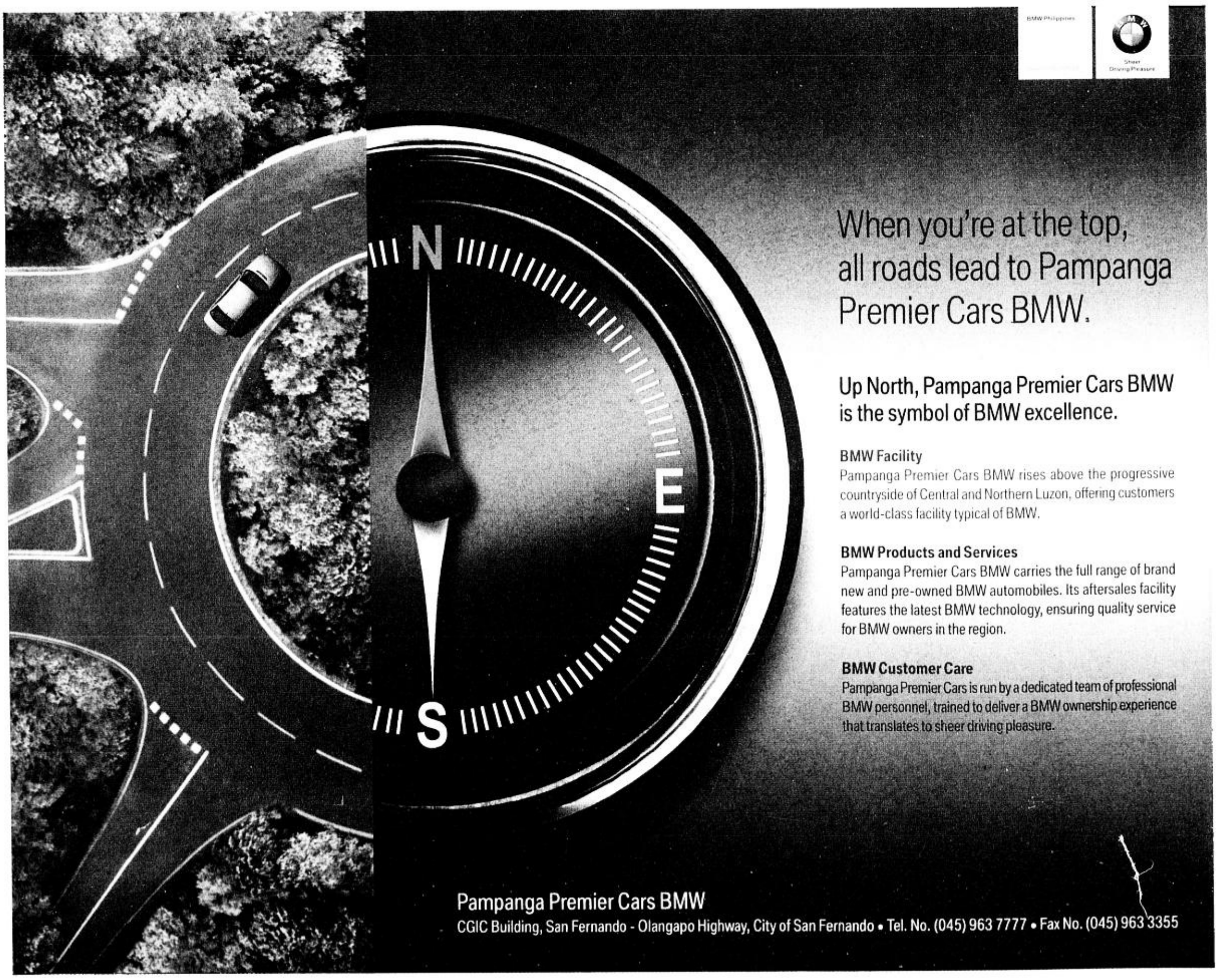
The peso is now trading at its strongest in over four years, closing at 49.82 against the US currency on Friday.

Stanchart's Hong Kong-based economist Frances Cheung, in a visit to Manila last week, noted that following the deficits in April and May, external payment had returned to surpluses since June, supported by continued inflows of overseas Filipino workers remittances and foreign direct investments.

She said an increasing number of OFWs should support remittance inflows in the months ahead, while exports were likely to stay strong.

"Looking ahead, we expect economic

PESO/ B2



UPS eyes Clark for intra-Asia warehousing hub

Strategic location, highly skilled people still RP's biggest advantage

By Riza T. Olchondra

CLARK, PAMPANGA—UNITED Parcel Service (UPS), a $42.6-billion package delivery and supply chain solutions provider, is considering putting up a warehousing hub in the Philippines to serve the growing demand for supply chain solutions in Asia-Pacific.

Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, UPS serves more than 200 countries and territories worldwide.

UPS country manager for supply chain solutions Mark B. Khambatta said in an interview that management was very much interested in expanding in the Philippines. He declined to reveal how much investment was being considered, but said "a substantial amount" would be needed to put up a warehousing hub at the Clark Special Economic Zone.

Khambatta said the warehousing hub would complement the company's existing sorting and distribution center in Clark.

The 5,900-square-meter facility is currently focused on coordinating package deliveries to and from Asia-Pacific, accommodating up to 11 cargo planes during peak hours from 12 midnight to 4 a.m. daily.

On a weekly basis, Philippines deliveries account for only 10 percent of the hub's massive sorting and distribution tasks from 120 cargo flights.

UPS' move is in stark contrast with that of Federal Express (FedEx), another global delivery and logistics company, which is closing its regional transshipment hub at the Subic Freeport Zone in December 2008.

Khambatta said UPS believed the Philippines' strategic location, the highly developed language skills of the people and government support would make further investments bring positive results for both the country and the company.

Its location, alone, makes the Philippines very attractive as it enables UPS to deliver a package to any Asian country from anywhere in the world within 24 hours of receipt in Clark.

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PELAC Peso Fixed Income Fund	1.0179	1.0123
PELAC Peso Equity Fund	1.0448	1.0270

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of September 29,2006

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items ₱	5,236,106,011
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	33,275,857,529
Due from Other Banks	17,653,196,973
Interbank Loans Receivable	59,933,668,241
Trading Account Securities (Net)	6,016,430,319
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	101,907,746,036
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)	225,635,810,006
Equity Investments (Net)	23,938,151,386
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)	8,405,622,829
Other Assets (Net):	46,751,868,894
Property Owned/Acquired	25,915,943,019
Others	20,835,925,875
TOTAL ASSETS ₱	528,754,458,224
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits ₱	20,959,596,590
Savings Deposits	327,114,024,484
Time Deposits	82,943,162,328
Special/Other Deposits	319,912,532
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	161,888,653
Outstanding Checks / Payment Orders	1,942,717,780
Bills Payable:	6,494,598,724
BSP - Rediscounts/Special Programs	70,640,000
Interbank Borrowings	1,897,274,780
Others	4,526,683,944
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	1,626,154,115
Other Liabilities	17,780,530,815
Unsecured Subordinated Debt (Inclusive of Unamortized Premium/Discount)	16,194,675,676
TOTAL LIABILITIES	475,537,261,697
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	32,673,019,000
Surplus	11,626,039,062
Surplus Reserves	588,329,813
Other Capital Accounts	8,329,808,652
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	53,217,196,527
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS ₱	528,754,458,224
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit ₱	11,146,831,710
Bills for Collection	1,647,685,244
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	19,355,777,639
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	27,483,423,261
Assets Held in Trust Investment Management Agreement	115,414,814,262
Invested In:	
Government Securities	82,011,615,040
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks	11,531,847,936
Loans and Discounts	9,320,490,304
Other Assets	12,550,860,982
Accountabilities:	
Trust and Other Fiduciary	76,509,909,677
Common Trust Funds	31,106,701,067
Investment/Fund Management	5,077,297,123
Unearned Income and Other Accountabilities	2,720,906,395
Other Contingent Accounts	11,876,798,462
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS ₱	186,925,330,578

*Other Information:

1. Deposits of:			
a) Government ₱			852,351,216
b) Banks			838,574,532
c) Trust Department			342,962,075
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:	Small Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	
Prescribed Ratio of Compliance:	6%	2%	
Actual Compliance:	6.91%	18.95%	
3. Amount of non-performing loans			22,756,392,529
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio			7.60%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets			51,228,168,186
6. General provision for loan and other losses			2,182,852,053
7. Specific provision for loan and other losses			16,418,284,246
8. Return on Equity (ROE)			11.46%
9. Amount of DOSRI loans/advances			14,551,851,401
10. Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio			4.86%
11. Amount of past due DOSRI loans/advances			25,500,000
12. Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio			0.01%

A. Directors, Officers, Stockholders & Related Interests (DOSRI)*
i. Loans, other credit accommodations & guarantees classified as DOSRI accounts under regulations existing prior to the effectivity of BSP Circular No. 423 ₱ 8,288,502,766
ii. New DOSRI loans, other credit accommodations & guarantees granted after the effectivity of BSP Circular No. 423 4,753,718,283

B. Non-DOSRI Loans prior to BSP Circular No. 423 dated March 15, 2004:
i. Loans, other credit accommodations and guarantees, as well as availments of previously approved loans and committed credit lines not considered DOSRI accounts prior to the issuance of BSP Circular No. 423 but are allowed a transition period as provided in said Circular 1,509,394,352

* Amended to conform with Circular No. 206 dated August 11, 1999 and Memorandum to All Banks dated November 29, 1999

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MAKATI) S.S

We, Arthur Ty and Joshua E. Naing of the above-mentioned Bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) JOSHUA E. NAING*
EVP-Controller

(Sgd.) ARTHUR TY
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 20th day of October 2006 at Makati City, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificate No. 20527238 issued at Makati City on January 27, 2006 and Community Tax Certificate No. *23671726, issued at Taytay, Rizal on January 28, 2006, respectively.

Doc No. 308
Page No. 43
Book No. II
Series of 2006

(Sgd.) RUTH SALOME A. MAGPAYO
Notary Public
until December 31, 2007
PTR No. [illegible] Makati City

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and its Subsidiaries and Affiliates)
As of September 29, 2006

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items ₱	5,809,589,367
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	35,785,820,853
Due from Other Banks	22,730,184,322
Interbank Loans Receivable	64,258,139,639
Trading Account Securities (Net)	23,463,860,124
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	125,579,408,050
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)	275,516,352,220
Equity Investments (Net)	11,940,908,852
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)	11,177,978,119
Other Assets (Net):	53,381,211,107
Property Owned/Acquired	28,794,056,214
Others	24,587,154,893
TOTAL ASSETS ₱	629,643,452,653
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits ₱	23,104,279,444
Savings Deposits	334,886,062,011
Time Deposits	121,347,373,126
Special/Other Deposits	319,912,532
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	177,010,745
Outstanding Checks / Payment Orders	2,365,786,274
Bills Payable:	49,125,308,408
BSP - Rediscounts/Special Programs	70,640,000
Interbank Borrowings	1,897,274,780
Deposit Substitutes	31,188,575,005
Others	15,968,818,623
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	4,929,849,200
Other Liabilities	21,588,051,188
Unsecured Subordinated Debt (Inclusive of Unamortized Premium/Discount)	16,194,675,676
TOTAL LIABILITIES	574,038,308,604
Minority Interest in Allied Undertakings/Subsidiaries/Affiliates	2,387,947,522
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	32,673,019,000
Surplus	11,626,039,062
Surplus Reserves	588,329,813
Other Capital Accounts	8,329,808,652
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	53,217,196,527
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS ₱	629,643,452,653
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit ₱	11,221,238,660
Bills for Collection	1,749,482,853
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	19,355,777,639
Spot/Future Exchange Sold	27,483,423,261
Assets Held in Trust Investment Management Agreement	115,720,484,771
Invested In:	
Government Securities	82,011,615,040
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks	11,623,800,707
Loans and Discounts	9,320,490,304
Other Assets	12,764,578,720
Accountabilities:	
Trust and Other Fiduciary	76,815,187,130
Common Trust Funds	31,106,701,067
Investment/Fund Management	5,077,297,123
Unearned Income and Other Accountabilities	2,721,299,451
Other Contingent Accounts	12,057,001,864
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS ₱	187,587,409,048

*Other Information:

1. Deposits of:

a) Government ₱	852,351,216
b) Banks	871,522,620
c) Trust Department	556,297,767

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries:

a) First Metro International Investment Co., Ltd. - HK
b) First Metro Investment Corporation
c) Philippine Savings Bank
d) MBTC Venture Capital Corporation
e) Metropolitan Bank (Bahamas)Ltd.
f) Metrobank Card Corporation (formerly Unibancard Corporation)
g) MB Remittance Centre, Ltd.-HK
h) Metro Remittance Center, Inc., NY (formerly Asia Money Link Corp.)
i) Metro Remittance-Italia SpA
j) ORIX Metro Leasing and Finance Corporation
k) Solid Philippines Venture and Capital Corporation
l) MBTC Exchange Service, GmbH, (Austria)
m) Metro Remittance (UK) Ltd.
n) Metro Remittance Singapore PTE Ltd.
o) Metro Remittance Center, S.A.- Spain
p) Philbancor Venture Capital Corporation

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MAKATI) S.S

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(Sgd.) JOSHUA E. NAING*
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(Sgd.) RUTH SALOME A. MAGPAYO
Notary Public
until December 31, 2007
PTR No. [illegible] Makati City

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Metrobank assets reached ₱630B in Q3

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST BANK METROpolitan Bank & Trust Co. said its assets reached P629.6 billion as of the third quarter of the year.

In a statement, Metrobank said this represented an increase of P35.7 billion from the first half's P593.9 billion.

As of end-2005, the bank's assets were placed at P586.5 billion.

The bank owns the second largest thrift bank in the country, Philippine Savings Bank, as well as investment house First Metro Investment Corp. It has more than 800 domestic and international branches, offices, subsidiaries and affiliates.

The bank's net consolidated loans, discounts and advances as of the third quarter reached P275.5 billion, an increase of P11.3 billion from the P264.2 billion in the second quarter.

Total deposits increased to P479.3 billion from the second quarter's P442.5 billion.

Total capital accounts amounted to P53.2 billion, with capital stock at P32.7 billion and surplus at P11.6 billion.

In February this year, the bank raised Hybrid Tier 1 capital worth $125 million with a 10-year call option. The issue was eight times oversubscribed.

The bank's capital-raising was in preparation to the implementation of Basel II in 2007.

BIR taps ...

From page B1

aside for LGUs. The law likewise states that 20 percent of the annual increase in value-added tax collection by a BIR's revenue region goes to the concerned LGUs.

Ric Espiritu, head of the BIR's revenue district office in Pasay City, told reporters that the Teves program was launched last Friday in the city.

"Barangay captains can be a big help for the BIR. We are also thinking if they could be asked to collect taxes from their constituents for the BIR, although we are not sure yet whether they will agree," Espiritu said.

The idea of a collaboration between the BIR and LGUs is likewise being pushed by the Philippine Association of Local Treasurers and Assessors (Phaltra).

Phaltra president and Quezon City Treasurer Victor Endriga stressed that a collaboration could substantially help raise the BIR's revenue collection because LGUs have a much bigger taxpayers' database than the BIR.

He noted that many businesses registered with the LGUs were not registered with the BIR because many small firms were more afraid of the consequences of not paying taxes to the local government than to the national government, Endriga added.

Peso seen ...

From page B1

growth in the first half of 2006 to edge down slightly, but remain firm, with the economy expected to expand by 5.1 percent for full year 2006," Cheung said.

Overall, the economist was bullish on the Philippines' economic fundamentals, citing twin growth engines fueled by robust export receipts and strong inflows from OFWs.

Cheung, who spoke at an economic briefing held by the Financial Executives of the Philippines, also bet that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas would likely cut its overnight borrowing rate by the second quarter of next year as the downtrend in inflation has given the monetary authority more flexibility in managing its policy rates.

She did not believe that the BSP would ease its overnight borrowing rate, currently at 7.5 percent, before the year ends.

"While trending downward, inflation still averaged 6.8 percent year-on-year in January to September and is still well above the central bank's target of 4-5 percent," she said.

She added that the current strong growth momentum meant that there was little need to use monetary policy to stimulate growth as there was enough liquidity in the domestic market now. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Co-ops urge gov't to define their tax obligations

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY'S UNION OF COOPERATIVES has turned to the Department of Finance and its attached agency, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, for help in clearing up the tax obligations slapped on member-organizations nationwide.

Also, the 22,000-accredited cooperatives grouped under the Philippine Cooperative Center (PCC) have submitted to the DOF and BIR a 100-page primer outlining the tax exemptions and compliance of cooperatives.

According to PCC chair Senen Bacani, the cooperatives group deemed it necessary to issue the primer, citing the difficulty some of the members are having in dealing with tax collectors, who appear to have different interpretations of the tax code on cooperatives.

The PCC is hoping that the primer will meet the approval of the DOF and BIR and adopt it "for the uniform guidance of all cooperatives and tax collecting agents," Bacani said in an interview.

Leyra Juarez, Cooperative Development Authority chair, said that, despite the clear exemptions of cooperatives from taxes, many cooperatives are still swamped with deficiency tax assessments from the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

"Should these cooperatives be made liable for taxes, even if the exemption is clearly provided in the law?" Juarez asked.

To encourage their formation, cooperatives were granted tax incentives under the Cooperative Code. The incentive depends on whether the cooperative does business exclusively with members or deals with non-members.

Tax expert Recel P. Cachuela from the Punongbayan-Araullo audit firm, said that "if the cooperatives are to be considered vehicles for promoting self-reliance aimed towards the attainment of economic development and social justice, [the organizations] should be accorded the benefits clearly intended by law."

Bullish run seen ...

From page B1

by gains from a stronger peso.

"(Third-quarter results) should boost sentiment toward the end of the year and next year, when all the benefits from the fiscal improvement supplement government's pump-priming efforts," AB Capital Securities said.

Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) initiated the release of good third-quarter results last week, reporting a net income of P229 million during the July-September period, a reversal of the P479 million in net losses it incurred in the same period last year.

"This brought year-to-date earnings to P596 million, reversing a net loss of P1.06 billion in the nine months of 2005.

AB Capital Securities noted that companies continued to flock the capital market for their funding requirements. Chemrez Technologies Inc. (formerly Corro-Coat) drew interest from many investors in a briefing last week for its biodiesel operations, which are due to start by November 2006.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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Lies, damned lies, and PAL-CebuPac statistics

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE GLOVES ARE OFF BETWEEN Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific.

PAL, which long suffered in silence against the Gokongwei airline's pointed TV ads about its "late" image, last week came blazing out with print ads to dispute CebuPac's latest claim that it has finally dethroned the Lucio Tan airline in the domestic passenger market.

"Let's get real," PAL harrumphed in a series of full-page ads in key newspapers, as it cited full-year domestic passenger figures until August 2006.

Based on Civil Aeronautics Board records, PAL still had a commanding lead of 48.8 percent over the 30.8-percent market share of "Airline No. 2" within the same period.

"Who is the Real No. 1 Domestic Airline?" PAL asked, even emblazoning the phrase "Real No. 1" in fiery red color amid a sea of black letters.

(The ad agency behind the series is the little-known K Ad.)

So, who is telling the truth? Well, ironically, both.

Whereas PAL chose to look at a one-year historical snapshot, Cebu Pacific CEO Lance Gokongwei focused on the latest, in-house figures from Oct. 1-15 to claim that the JG Summit subsidiary has finally reached pole position, a good 10 years after its founding.

According to Cebu Pacific, the airline flew a total of 148,578 passengers in the first 15 days of this month as against PAL's 144,167, or the equivalent of 45.337-percent market share as against PAL's 44.02 percent.

Whether this trend would hold the industry would know after tomorrow, when October shall be over.

Still, judging from the Gokongwei confidence in both ads and press statements, final passenger statistics will validate youthful exuberance.

But, then again, PAL's Kapitan has an ace up his sleeve, and it is called Air Philippines.

(Correction: The business class section of the spanking new Airbus A319-100 of PAL has eight seats, not four as stated in Friday's column.)

Revenue disintegrity

THE US-FUNDED Revenue Integrity Protection Service is in turmoil, after no less than the RIPS chief was fingered by one of his investigators.

The RIPS chief, Finance Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza Jr., is now the object of a complaint before the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission after a brand-new Toyota Avalon imported duty-free was found parked in his Merville house.

Worse, the US model luxury car was later traced as registered with Asia International Auctioneers, a Subic importer which deals directly with the Department of Finance as a wholesale importer of used cars.

In addition to the Avalon, a 1993 BMW 5 series car was also found in the Mendoza garage, despite being also registered in the name of Asian International Auctioneers.

In all, the Mendoza household had four vehicles, including a brand-new Toyota Corolla Altis registered in the name of a 20-year-old "unemployed" daughter of the DOF undersecretary, according to the complaint filed by RIPS investigator Ruben Frogoso.

Frogoso was suspended by Mendoza on Oct. 20, the same day that the investigator filed the corruption complaint against his boss.

A member of the Aquila Legis fraternity, Mendoza was assistant executive secretary for legal affairs during the Estrada administration and a director of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Money-go-round

- ABS-CBN is looking for a corporate affairs director, after its potential hire, PR consultant/columnist Bong Osorio, developed cold feet. Osorio has made a career lecturing companies on how to craft and implement an effective corporate communications program.
- PIATCO lawyers Romulo Mabanta are this week holding their annual senior partners' meeting all the way in Prague.

Heard through the grapevine

THE PANLILIOS of Grand Boulevard Hotel may have to finally shell out more than $300,000 in aircraft repairs owed by their defunct Grand Airways to a Singapore company since 1997.

This, after the Supreme Court denied the Panlilio plea to stop the Pasay City Regional Trial Court from entertaining a judgment order issued by a Singapore court in behalf of the Singaporean creditor.

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₱641B in gov't debt paid in 9 mos.

Domestic borrowings, ODA loans favored

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT spent some P641 billion in January to September for debt servicing, 24 percent higher than year-ago level, as it accelerated debt reduction efforts.

In the first nine months of 2005, debt payment amounted to P517.896 billion.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that of the total debt paid in the nine-month period this year, P386.54 billion accounted for principal obligations while interest payment amounted to P254.45 billion.

Of the total debt settled, domestic liabilities amounted to P495.4 billion and while foreign obligations accounted for about P145.6 billion.

For September alone, the amount spent for debt servicing stood at P114.54 billion.

The government, hoping to improve its below-investment-grade credit ratings, adopts the policy of promptly paying its obligations. Its total debts were placed at about P4 trillion.

It has been spending a big chunk of its annual revenue collection for debt servicing. Interest payments alone eat up about a third of its annual budget.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz earlier said the government was keen on meeting the target of having a zero budget deficit by 2008 through improved revenue collection.

Without deficit, the government will no longer be forced to incur additional debts. Currently, government borrowings are used to plug budget deficits and pay maturing obligations.

To manage its liabilities, Cruz said the government had been borrowing more from domestic sources than from foreign lenders. This helps the country reduce its exposure to foreign exchange risks that could further bloat its debts, he added.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government was also reducing the share of commercial loans to total foreign loans to minimize foreign exchange risks.

Loans from multilateral and bilateral institutions—the biggest of which are the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and Japan Bank for International Cooperation—come in the form of official development assistance (ODA), which carry lower interest rates. Under the 2006 fiscal program, the government is scheduled to borrow some $4 billion from foreign sources. Of the amount, $900 million is ODA and $3.1 billion is commercial. This represents a borrowing mix of 77.5 : 22.5 in favor of commercial loans.

For 2007, the government intends to revise the borrowing mix to increase the share of ODAs to the total foreign borrowing requirement. Of the $2.2 billion worth of foreign borrowings scheduled for next year, $1.2 billion is commercial and $1 billion is ODA, or a borrowing mix of 55:45 in favor of commercial.

Teves, however, said the borrowing mix was flexible and could still change in such a way that ODAs would be higher than commercial loans. This is if the government would not be faced with timing constraint.

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InfraStruXure DATA CENTERS ON DEMAND

Higher growth ...

From page B1

tion," the BSP report said.

"However, some economists noted that concerns on political stability and the possibility of some wage adjustments are potential risks to inflation," it said.

The survey's 5.3-percent inflation rate forecast for next year was still higher than the government's targeted range of 4-5 percent.

The inflation forecasts for 2006 ranged between a low of 6.3 percent and a high of 7 percent while the range for next year was much wider at 4-7 percent.

The BSP reported that the private analysts also expected continued improvements in economic activity both in 2006 and 2007.

The average forecast for real gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2006 rose slightly to 5.4 percent, higher than the last quarter survey of 5.3 percent. However, this was still below the government's growth target of 5.5-6.1 percent.

"Analysts point out that progress on the country's economic reforms will encourage more infrastructure investments. The resilient services sector is also likely to push growth in 2006," the BSP reported.

"They also noted that sustained OFW (overseas Filipino workers) remittances will further spur private consumption," the report added.

For 2007, the GDP forecast rose to 5.4 percent from the last quarter's forecast of 5.2 percent, likewise lower than the government's target range of 5.7-6.5 percent.

Based on the probability distribution for GDP forecasts, analysts' expectations for output growth converged around the 5.1-6 percent range for 2006 and 2007.

The institutions covered by the survey were ABN-Amro, ATR Kim Eng Securities, Banco de Oro Universal Bank, Bank of America, Citigroup, Development Bank of Singapore, Economist Intelligence Unit, Equitable PCIBank, HSBC, ING Bank, Lehman Brothers, Multinational Investment Bank, Nomura Securities, Philippine Equity Partner, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., UBS Warburg and Wallace Business Forum.

In its own analysis, the BSP agreed that the easing of world oil prices in recent months had helped reduce the cost-push risks associated with the inflation outlook, as consumers directly benefited from reductions in local pump prices. It said improving agricultural output had also stabilized food prices, thus helping to further bolster monetary authorities' expectations of a return to a low-inflation regime in the medium term.

However, these same supply-side factors continued to serve as wild cards in the prevailing macroeconomic environment, the BSP said.

"The possibility of a renewed oil upsurge due to supply concerns and geopolitical developments remains present given continued demand in major economies amid tight supply conditions. Other supply-side risks loom on the horizon as well, such as the possible El Niño episode," the report said.

The BSP also acknowledged that output growth remained at risk, noting that while the prospect of rising interest rates in advanced economies was somewhat receding in the past quarter, robust activity in the United States and steady recovery in Europe and Japan may again, at a later point, require tightening by the major central banks.

Globe, Taiwan Mobile offer special SIM for OFWs

Call rate to the Philippines cheaper by 50%

By Riza T. Olchondra

TWO MEMBERS OF THE BRIDGE Mobile Alliance, the biggest alliance of telecommunications companies in Asia-Pacific, have jointly developed the first and only prepaid SIM for Filipinos in Taiwan.

Globe Telecom Inc. and Taiwan Mobile have launched the Taiwan Mobile Ok Kababayan SIM, which allows Filipinos working in Taiwan to call Globe and Touch Mobile (TM) subscribers in the Philippines at rates that are 50-percent cheaper than other Taiwan-based cellular providers.

The Ok Kababayan SIM offers IDD rate of NT$4.5 per minute for calls to Globe and TM. Other Taiwan cellular providers offer IDD rates ranging from NT$9.50 to NT$11 per minute.

Ok Kababayan SIM's NT$1 for international SMS to Globe and TM is also much cheaper than the NT$5 per ISMS of other Taiwan cellular operators. On top of these, Ok Kababayan subscribers also get a bonus of 20 domestic SMS for every NT$300 Ok card reloaded into the SIM.

In the Philippines, with the Globe Super Sulit Tipid IDD Promos, calls to Taiwan Mobile are offered at the local rate of P7.50 per minute or about $0.13, versus other networks that charge as much as $0.40 per minute.

The Ok Kababayan SIM was successfully launched during the Ok Ka Kababayan Fiesta held last Oct. 22 at the Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Hall—the biggest Filipino gathering ever witnessed in Taiwan.

"This is part of the two companies' corporate thrust to serve the growing OFW market," Globe chief operating advisor Andrew Buay said in a statement. "Globe and Taiwan Mobile are committed to enrich and bring families closer together through mobile communication."

Manila-Taipei trade grows 6.9%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TWO-WAY TRADE BETWEEN the Philippines and Taiwan increased 6.9 percent to about US$4.84 billion in the eight months ending in August as efforts to develop a growth corridor linking special economic zones continue.

Taiwan's Government Information Office (GIO) reported that the island economy has received goods imported from the Philippines worth about $1.94 billion as of end-August.

The orders from Taiwan grew 7.3 percent from about $1.81 billion posted in the same period last year.

At the same time, Taiwan shipped to the Philippines goods worth about $2.9 billion—an increase of 6.7 percent compared to figures registered in the same period last year.

January to August trading showed a continuing trade surplus of about $956.2 million for Taiwan, increasing 5.5 percent from $906 million in 2005.

Also, GIO data showed that the Philippines moved down a notch to become Taiwan's 13th largest trading partner in the eight-month period, accounting for 1.78 percent of its total global trade valued at $271.6 billion.

Among the developing countries, the country is Taiwan's fourth-largest trade partner after Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Thailand and Indonesia, which replaced the Philippines at 12th place.

The Philippines remained the 11th largest destination of Taiwanese exports with about 2.1 percent of total outbound cargo valued at $138.1 billion.

PCCI CONFERS TOP BUSINESS LEADER AWARD TO HARESCO

32nd Philippine Business Conference
ONE. GLOBAL. FILIPINO.

Cites role in bridge building program with social entrepreneurship to bring progress to countryside

The Aurelio Periquet Jr. Business Leadership Award

LAUNCHED in 1998, the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Business Leadership Award is the most prestigious honor in the Philippine business industry highlighting the exemplary achievements and dedication of the business leader in promoting the welfare of Filipinos and national development.

The primary criteria in the selection of the recipients of the award is the extent and degree to which the nominee has exercised excellence in leadership that significantly contribute and improve not only his own business objectives but also the development of the business community, the workers, and the country's economy.

The two categories of the recognition are the Pearl Award for business leaders aged 35 and below, and the Pillar Award for those aged 36 and above.

The award is conferred annually by the President of the Republic of the Philippines during the Philippine Business Conference. ■

PGMA HAILS PCCI LEADERS STANDARD BEARERS OF RP GLOBAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO presented the 2006 Aurelio Periquet Jr. Business Leadership Awards to the man who conceptualized, designed and re-engineered the President's Bridge Program (PBP) that has improved the lives of thousands of Filipinos in the countryside.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) conferred the prestigious Pillar Award (for business) to Teodorico Haresco Jr., the Chairman and President of the Winace Holdings Philippines Inc., in recognition of his "patriotic and responsible business leadership"

"Your success, the success of our awardees, the success of these industries and corporations, the success of PCCI, your success is our country's success."
— President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

at the closing ceremonies of the three-day Philippine Business Conference at the Manila Hotel last Oct.20,2006.

Now an accomplished businessman, Haresco's singular contribution to the economic development and progress of the nation is his crafting of a sustainable and acceptable packaging for the President's Bridge Program, as the Director of Sales and Business Development for Asia and Pacific of the British firm Mabey and Johnson Ltd. Mabey and Johnson Ltd. belongs to the Mabey Group of Companies, which specializes in the manufacture of pre-fabricated modular steel bridge panels.

Haresco's concept paved the way to a successful implementation of the single biggest infrastructure program spanning three administrations, giving rural and isolated communities and people the necessary lifelines to centers of commerce, welfare and well being, security and empowerment.

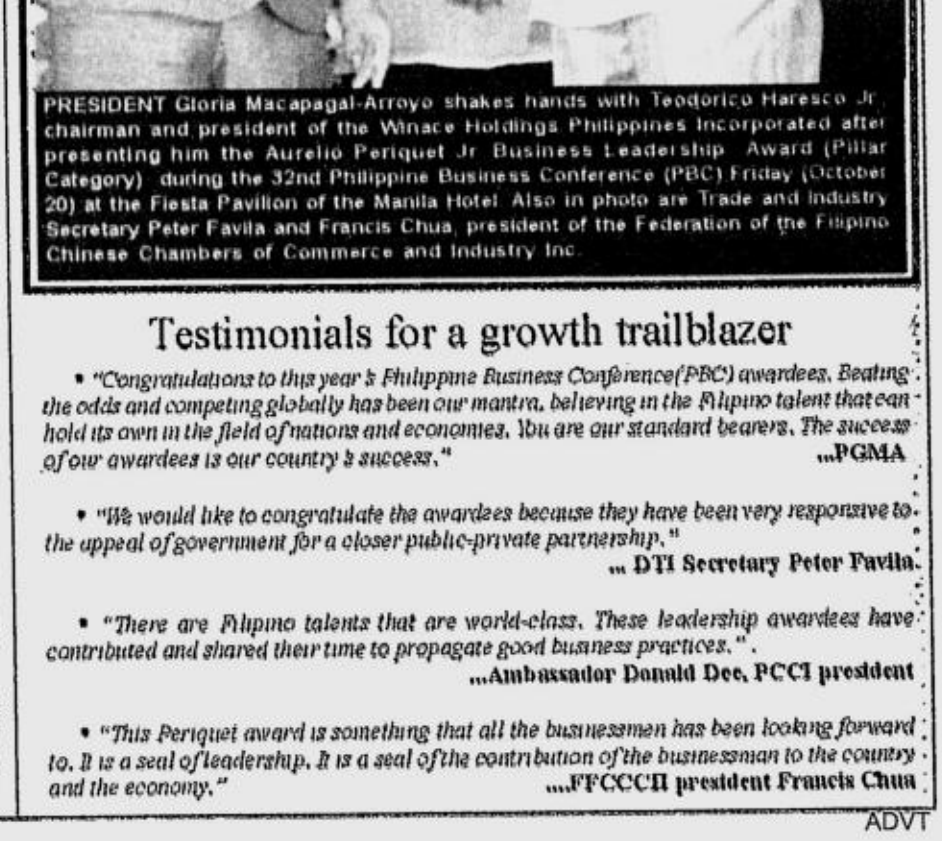
Haresco, who holds a Masteral Degree in Economics from the McGill University of Montreal, Canada, was able to link and weave the concepts of merchandise imports with official development assistance and commercial credit from foreign governments and private sector suppliers into the Philippine infrastructural needs and priorities and the national development platform.

The 1,500 completed bridges have become the bridges to the lives, the continuing hopes and progress, the empowerment of the people especially those in the remotest barangays in the country by bridging the gap between the rich and the poor.

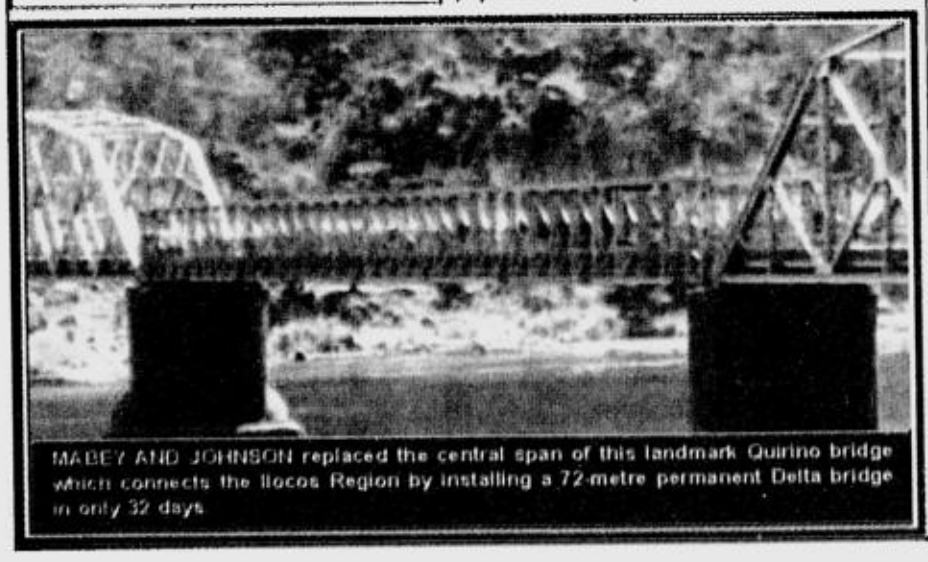
For this, the book entitled: "The British Legacy in the Philippines" recognized Haresco with several other Filipinos that included Former President Fidel Ramos and President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, for their monumental contribution to Philippine economic development for the last 425 years.

Haresco is now duplicating his feat on bridge re-engineering and international financing to developing nations such as Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Siberia, bringing with him the skills of Filipino workers building bridges in the world.

Aside from his global business ventures, Haresco also established Win Source Solutions Inc., a call center subsidiary that has supported the President's thrust of creating from six to 10,000 new jobs by 2010. Win Source is currently operating with more than 500 agents. ■



PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo shakes hands with Teodorico Haresco Jr., chairman and president of the Winace Holdings Philippines Incorporated after presenting him the Aurelio Periquet Jr. Business Leadership Award (Pillar Category) during the 32nd Philippine Business Conference (PBC) Friday (October 20) at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel. Also in photo are Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila and Francis Chua, president of the Federation of the Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc.



MABEY AND JOHNSON replaced the central span of this landmark Quirino bridge which connects the Ilocos Region by installing a 72-metre permanent Delta bridge in only 32 days

Testimonials for a growth trailblazer

- *"Congratulations to this year's Philippine Business Conference(PBC) awardees. Beating the odds and competing globally has been our mantra, believing in the Filipino talent that can hold its own in the field of nations and economies. You are our standard bearers. The success of our awardees is our country's success."* ...PGMA
- *"We would like to congratulate the awardees because they have been very responsive to the appeal of government for a closer public-private partnership."* ... DTI Secretary Peter Favila.
- *"There are Filipino talents that are world-class. These leadership awardees have contributed and shared their time to propagate good business practices."* ...Ambassador Donald Dee, PCCI president
- *"This Periquet award is something that all the businessmen has been looking forward to. It is a seal of leadership. It is a seal of the contribution of the businessman to the country and the economy."* ....FFCCCII president Francis Chua

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Twins no more

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, I WROTE A COUPLE of articles on the Philippines and Thailand as erstwhile twin economies that had drifted wide apart through the decades (NFL, Aug. 2 & 9, 2004).

I had cited some statistical data from the 1960s and 70s on the two countries, that showed how virtually identical the two economies were about four decades ago.

That provoked a lot of feedback from readers who contributed even more observations on how the two economies followed such divergent paths through the years.

Having been in Bangkok again last week, and landing in their spanking new Suvarnabhumi (pronounced "Su-wanna-foom") Airport, I couldn't help getting the same mixed feelings of envy and frustration all over again. And as I met and discussed with Thai government officials, including from the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB)—their equivalent to our Neda—that sinking feeling that we are so hopelessly behind this estranged twin of ours got reinforced all the more.

Flashback

Once upon a time, we were the envy of our neighbors for the same reason we now envy the Thais.

Flashback to the early 1960s, when Manila boasted the newest and most modern airport terminal in Asia with the opening of the Manila International Airport.

As an elementary grade-schooler from the boondocks of Los Baños then, I recall how the famous MIA was the highlight of the annual school excursion to Manila, featuring an exciting ride (or two, or more, depending on one's boyish enthusiasm and energy levels) up the country's—and possibly the region's—very first escalator.

Asia's first airline, our very own PAL, flew with world industry leaders such as Pan American and Trans World Airlines (TWA) out of what was considered one of the busiest international airports in the region then.

The Philippine economy was regarded as second only to Japan in the entire Asian region.

We were, according to a Korean friend, seen by his countrymen as an advanced country and object of their admiration and envy then.

Thais and Indonesians came in large numbers to study in our colleges and universities, especially in Los Baños where they picked up their knowledge in the agricultural sciences.

Show window

How times have changed.

Bangkok's new international airport, reputed to be the largest in Asia and having the tallest control tower in the world, is now probably this bustling economy's best show window and reflection of how much the Thais have accomplished through the years.

Huge as the terminal building is, one is immediately struck at how it still gets filled with a seemingly unending stream of passengers. Built for an initial annual capacity of 45 million passengers, it is clear that it wouldn't take too long for them to need to construct the planned second phase that would raise this to 100 million.

I was told that the airport had been decades in the making. Planning and land preparation had actually spanned that long, although construction of the airport itself happened only in the last five years.

While the project was not without the usual controversies ranging from environmental concerns to financing issues, it was the political will of ousted Thai leader Thaksin that finally pulled it through, I also heard my Thai hosts say.

But they were quick to add that certain favored businesses benefited immensely from the project, as if to convey that there was nothing heroic about Thaksin's feat either.

Looking beyond the airport, a most remarkable contrast between us and the Thais can be seen in their demographic data. We both had about 36 million people in 1970. But by 2002, we Filipinos numbered 80 million, while the Thais had only grown to 62 million, a difference equivalent to the entire population of Mindanao.

In 1970, children and senior citizens were 45 and 5 percent of the Thai population, respectively, while the working age population made up the other half.

This implied a dependency ratio (i.e. ratio of children and senior citizens to working-age population) of 100 percent, or each worker needing to support an average of one dependent.

By 2005, the population profile had changed to only 23 percent children and 10 percent senior citizens, or a dependency ratio below 50 percent. In other words, its working age population now outnumbers its dependent population at a ratio of two to one.

Demographic dividend

Thailand is now enjoying the demographic dividend arising from its success in reducing its population growth rate beginning in the 1980s.

The NESDB handbook states: "Fewer children population provides chances of child development in terms of physical, mental, intellectual, emotional and social development with more quality."

In short, there are now fewer and better quality Thais who enjoy a better quality of life than us Filipinos—all because we have been reproducing much faster than they do.

In fact, we are now reproducing ourselves more than three times faster than the Thais, with a population growth rate of 2.3 percent per year against their 0.7 percent.

In 1970, Thailand and the Philippines both had per capita incomes averaging around $250; now the Thais have $2,800 while we only have half as much, at $1,400.

If you're looking for reasons why we had diverged so much after 35 years, look no further.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Smart, Shell urged to list shares

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MOBILE PHONE GIANT SMART COMMUNIcations Inc. and oil refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. are two of 85 firms identified for listing on the stock market by the Board of Investments.

Pascual de Guzman, director of BOI's legal department, said during a Philippine Stock Exchange briefing last week that the identified firms belonged to the chemical, agriculture and energy industries.

He declined, however, to disclose the other names on the list.

De Guzman said that Smart had claimed it no longer needed to list its shares because its mother firm, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), was already listed.

PSE president Francis Lim said, however, that he would encourage Smart to list despite conflicts between the provisions of Executive Order 226 or the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987 and the PSE's own chainlisting rule.

Under EO 226, BOI-registered firms are required to offer for sale to the public 10 percent or more of their total subscribed capital stock.

Under the PSE's chainlisting rule, on the other hand, a subsidiary or parent company of a publicly-listed firm would not be considered fit for listing if the assets and operations of the applicant company were substantially the same as those of the listed firm.

"I would like Smart to be listed. I will encourage them to list. Should our chain listing rule, which is a private rule, overrule a provision of the law, my personal opinion is the rules of a self regulatory organization should give way to the mandatory listing," Lim said.

On the other hand, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. said last year that it was not yet the time to go public due to an ongoing review of its oil refinery operations.

Shell had expressed concern over the local incentives environment, a key factor it was considering in determining whether to expand its operations here or shut down its refinery.

Shell and listed oil giant Petron Corp. are the only oil refiners left after Caltex decided to close its refinery and just import finished petroleum products.

Plant cocoa, RP farmers encouraged

By Christine A. Gaylican

MULTINATIONAL CONFECTIONERY giant Mars Inc. said the Philippines had the potential to become a major producer of cocoa beans in Asia, a ranking official said.

"The country could be a major exporter of cocoa if the local industry expanded current areas planted with quality cocoa beans to 100,000 hectares," said Peter van Grinsven, Mars Inc. manager for cocoa sustainability field research, in a presentation last Friday.

Van Grinsven said that based on his study of local farms here, inter-cropping or setting aside even just 10 percent of coconut plantations to cacao, would generate at least $150 million in cocoa bean export revenues.

"The Philippines could be a main supplier to other Asian cocoa processing facilities because as of now, demand for good cocoa grows by an average 2.6 percent [a year] around the globe," he said.

Mars Inc. is part of Masterfoods USA, manufacturer of Mars, Milky Way, M&M's, Twix and Snickers.

Masterfoods is looking at the possibility of getting cocoa beans from the Philippines, the Cocoa Foundation of the Phils. said Friday.

Mars Inc. is one of the supporters of the Success Alliance group that seeks to increase local cocoa production by training 5,628 smallholder Filipino farmers in new methods of increasing cocoa yield to diversify farm incomes.

PNOC-EC to drill well in Leyte

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SOON-TO-BE-LISTED PHILIPPINE NAtional Oil Co. Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) will be drilling a new well in Cabalian, Southern Leyte by December to confirm whether there was enough steam to produce between 120 megawatts (MW) and 200 MW of power.

PNOC-EDC president and chief executive Paul Aquino said drilling and related costs would add to around $2 million.

He said there were already two wells in the area, but these were not enough to determine the feasibility of putting up a plant in the area.

"We'll acidize one of the holes and dig one new hole. These three holes will enable us to determine whether or not the available steam there will make this a viable project," he told the INQUIRER.

He said PNOC-EDC should be able to determine the viability of the project by February or March next year.

The available steam should be able to produce 120 MW to 200 MW of power to justify the costs involved in developing the steam field, putting up a plant, and establishing 87 kilometers of transmission lines to connect the plant to the grid, he said.

Should the site be found feasible for development, he said funds to develop the steam field would either come from PNOC-EDC coffers or from loans.

The power plant would be undertaken by a private entity to which PNOC-EDC would sell the steam from the Cabalian field, while the transmission lines would be financed by National Transmission Corp., he said.

In an earlier interview, Eduardo Mañalac, president and chief executive of PNOC-EDC parent PNOC, said the state firm had already talked with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for possible official development assistance (ODA).

If the Cabalian site would prove capable of producing 120 MW to 200 MW of steam, Aquino said this would justify the needed investments to convert this steam into power and to transport this power to other parts of the power-hungry Visayas and Mindanao grids.

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Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	500,000	450,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	50,000	-
Camp John Hay	-	250,000
Canlubang	500,000	400,000
Capitol Hills	45,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,600,000	1,400,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	100,000
Club Filipino	90,000	-
Eaglerdge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	100,000	-
Forest Hills "B"	180,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	190,000	
Makati Sports Club "A"	190,000	
Makati Sports Club "B"	220,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,500,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,500,000
Manila Polo	2,900,000	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	310,000	-
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	300,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	230,000	160,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	600,000	550,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	180,000	150,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	190,000	160,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	330,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "C"	375,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	140,000
Spa & Lodge	560,000	480,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,400,000	1,150,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,140,000	1,800,000
Subic Bay Golf	200,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	290,000
Tagaytay Highlands	650,000	620,000
Tagaytay Midlands	625,000	600,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	200,000	180,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	6,400,000

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Alta Vista A/B*/Corp.**	-	280,000/Pls. Call*/Pls.Call**
Baguio Country Club	-	Pls. Call
Camp John Hay	Pls. Call	260,000
Canyon Woods	100,000	-
Capitol Hills	50,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	90,000
Club Filipino	100,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	280,000*/350,000**	Pls. Call*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	90,000/150,000*	Pls. Call*
Luisita Golf	Pls. Call	300,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	12,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	11,600,000
Manila Polo	2,850,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	Pls. Call*	-
Makati Sports Club	200,000	170,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	200,000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	160,000	-
Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3**	Pls. Call	Pls. Call/550,000**
Mt. Malarayat A	180,000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/Pls. Call*/350,000**	160,000
Punta Fuego	400,000	350,000
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	Pls. Call
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	80,000/170,000*/250,000**	Pls. Call*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Royale Tagaytay CC	65,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/150,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	-	1,800,000*
Subic Golf	190,000	-
The Palms Country Club	400,000	Pls. Call
Country Club at Tagaytay Highlands	320,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	645,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	620,000	-
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club A/B*	150,000/180,000*	-
Valley Golf	220,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	190,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	6,200,000

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EAGLERIDGE B	260K	CLUB FILIPINO	80K
EAGLERIDGE C	330K	EAGLERIDGE B	PLS. CALL
FOREST HILLS B	180K	EAGLERIDGE C	PLS. CALL
LUISITA GOLF	300K	FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	PLS. CALL
MANILA GOLF CORP	PLS. CALL	LUISITA GOLF	250K
MANILA POLO CLUB	2.850M	MANILA GOLF CORP.	12.5M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A	295K	MANILA GOLF IND.	PLS. CALL
MANILA YACHT CLUB	200K	MANILA POLO CLUB	PLS. CALL
METROPOLITAN CLUB	150K	MANILA SOUTHWOODS B	630K
MIMOSA C-3	600K	METROPOLITAN CLUB B	150K
MT. MALARAYAT A	200K	MIMOSA IND.	180K
MT. MALARAYAT C	400K	ORCHARD A	160K
ORCHARD B	310K	SHERWOOD HILLS B	90K
ORCHARD C	400K	SPA & LODGE	450K
ROYALE TAGAYTAY C	100K	SPLENDIDO	PLS. CALL
SPA & LODGE	550K	STA. ELENA A	PLS. CALL
STA. ELENA "A"	1.5M	STA. ELENA B	1.7M
TOWER CLUB IND/CORP.	PLS. CALL	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	600K
VALLE VERDE	85K	THE PALMS	350K
WACK WACK	PLS. CALL	WACK WACK	6.5M

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GF Tuscan Bldg. 114 V.A Rufino St. Legaspi Village, Makati City

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 27, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.9	7	6.8	6.8	233,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	44.5	45	44	44.5	2,144,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	63	63	61.5	62.5	1,498,900
China Banking Corp.	670	670	670	670	1,730
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.42	3,120,000
Equitable PCI Bank, Inc.	70.5	72.5	70.5	71.5	66,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	45	45.5	44.5	45.5	4,579,300
Philippine National Bank	36	36	35	35	35,000
Phil. Savings Bank	42	46	42	46	6,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.25	19.5	35,500
Security Bank Corp.	59	60.5	59	60.5	14,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	45.5	50	45.5	50	21,900
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	481,000
First Abacus Financial	0.5	0.54	0.5	0.54	150,000
Filipino Fund Inc	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1600	1600	1600	1600	970
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.12	1.18	1.12	1.16	1,056,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	245	245	245	245	1,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2010	2010	2010	2010	1,410
Ivantage Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.48	4,097,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	56	56	55	55.5	8,900
First Phil Hldgs Corp	53.5	54	52.5	53	542,300
Manila Electric Co. A	27	27	26.5	27	250,900
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	32	30.5	32	665,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.3	9.1	9.3	1,186,000
Petron Corp.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.15	7,092,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	590,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.02	450,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.55	3.5	3.5	87,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	21.5	22	21.5	22	32,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	41.5	41.5	41	41.5	753,900
Rfm Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.06	686,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	278,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	300,000
San Miguel Corp. A	66	66.5	66	66.5	100,500
San Miguel Corp. B	74	74	73	74	735,800
Universal Robina Corp.	20	20.25	20	20	2,152,800
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.56	0.58	0.55	0.56	50,540,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	2.85	2.9	2.8	2.9	688,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	2.14	2.4	2.1	2.4	473,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.9	6.2	5.9	6	94,158,000
Republic Cement Corp.	2.9	3	2.75	3	1,090,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	1,385,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.62	0.68	0.62	0.68	380,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.73	0.74	0.71	0.72	74,710,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.175	0.185	0.17	0.185	15,410,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	67,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	500	505	500	500	657,770
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	1,000,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	6.1	6.1	6	6	3,534,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.048	0.048	200,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.65	740,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.245	0.25	2,510,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	580,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.95	131,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	80,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9	9	9	7,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.5	4,858,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.1	2,505,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2,270,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.88	1.9	1.84	1.84	1,160,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.9	1,315,000
Medco Holdings	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,250,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.39	0.44	0.39	0.44	1,080,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	30,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.82	1.86	1.74	1.74	7,666,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	243,400,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	100,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc	0.92	0.95	0.92	0.95	30,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.81	0.82	0.78	0.78	1,900,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	6,560,000
SM Investments Corp.	282.5	282.5	280	280	190,540
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	251,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	3,600,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.5	14,918,900
Belle Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	5,463,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.6	2	1.6	1.9	40,033,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.43	0.44	0.42	0.42	3,950,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.15	3.05	3.15	1,166,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.62	1.62	90,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.98	2	1.98	2	80,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	2	2.1	2	2.1	130,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	640,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	11,810,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.36	1.26	1.36	6,307,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.06	0.0625	0.0575	0.0625	21,100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.76	1.78	21,927,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	1,940,000
Gotesco Land, Inc.B	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.145	1,380,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	56,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.007	20,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.37	0.42	0.36	0.41	10,930,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.82	0.83	0.81	0.82	6,510,000
Megaworld Corp.	2.18	2.28	2.18	2.28	294,481,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	2.48	2.5	2.32	2.34	2,033,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.35	0.38	0.35	0.38	8,850,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.19	1,700,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.56	1.76	1.56	1.76	63,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	15	15.5	15	15.5	2,629,300
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.46	0.41	0.44	16,130,000
SM Development Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	180,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	9	9	8.9	9	7,133,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.63	0.65	0.63	0.65	190,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	2,350,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	21	21.5	21	21.25	132,300
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1	1	1	1	170,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.56	1.62	1.56	1.6	8,940,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1130	1130	1110	1120	29,790
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	5	5.3	5	5.2	9,764,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2295	2315	2295	2310	210,390
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Diversified Fin. Network	3	3	3	3	2,000
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	113,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.84	1.86	635,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.049	0.0525	0.049	0.05	12,300,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.06	0.0625	24,400,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.031	172,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	211,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	19.75	20	19.75	19.75	21,200
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	20,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	351,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	33	33	33	33	1,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.28	2.3	2.26	2.26	839,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.35	0.35	1,550,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	12,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.56	0.52	0.52	11,350,000
EDUCATION					
iPeople Inc	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	103,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	2.02	1.96	1.98	1,331,000
Paxys Inc.	14	14.5	14	14.25	687,900
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.4	1,059,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	6.6	6.6	6.3	6.4	1,839,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.01	92,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8	8	7.9	8	537,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.5	9.5	9.1	9.2	214,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	30,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	5,560,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	4,240,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.02	129,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	68,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.0095	504,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.75	3.8	3.7	3.7	5,484,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.25	317,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	1,500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.68	0.7	0.68	0.7	1,190,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.32	19,150,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	60,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	50,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	40,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.25	10.25	10	10	85,300
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	105	104	105	9,450
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	20,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	19,300

CURRENCIES

October 27, 2006

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.787960	1.000000	49.8880
Japan	Yen	0.006656	0.008447	0.4214
United Kingdom	Pound	1.489954	1.890900	94.3332
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101267	0.128518	6.4115
Switzerland	Franc	0.628457	0.797575	39.7894
Canada	Dollar	0.702219	0.891186	44.4595
Singapore	Dollar	0.503168	0.638570	31.8570
Australia	Dollar	0.600442	0.762021	38.0157
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.090191	2.652661	132.3360
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210285	0.266873	13.3138
Brunei	Dollar	0.501566	0.636537	31.7556
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000109	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.021296	0.027027	1.3483
UAE	Dirham	0.214539	0.272272	13.5831
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.269100	63.3129
Argentina	Peso	0.255004	0.323625	16.1450
Brazil	Real	0.369155	0.468494	23.3722
Denmark	Kroner	0.134182	0.170291	8.4955
India	Rupee	0.017437	0.022129	1.1040
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214937	0.272777	13.6083
Mexico	New Peso	0.073364	0.093106	4.6449
New Zealand	Dollar	0.515647	0.654407	32.6471
South Africa	Rand	0.105019	0.133280	6.6491
Korea	Won	0.000830	0.001053	0.0525
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023691	0.030066	1.4999

Binay at the ramparts

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

MAYOR BINAY AND I GO BACK A LONG way—to the early 1960s when we were both working at Insular Life in Plaza Moraga, Binondo. For four years, Binay toiled as a clerk in the policy issue section while studying law at night. During lunch break, he would hit his books in the privacy of the storeroom.

After Binay passed the bar, he quit Insular Life to practice law. I lost sight of him until the anti-Marcos confetti rallies on Ayala Avenue in the mid-'80s. I was holding office at Ayala Avenue and I would see him leading the rallies.

Binay fought, not only Marcos, but also Makati Mayor Nemensio Yabut. And when Marcos fled to Hawaii, Binay was in the midst of the revolutionary forces that stormed and captured Malacañang.

For his valuable contribution to the cause of freedom, Cory Aquino appointed Binay officer in charge of Makati. Eventually, he was elected mayor and has routed every opponent.

When Brillante ran for mayor, Binay beat him in every single precinct. After that disaster, nobody listened to Brillante. He is trying to get back into the limelight by accusing Binay of hiring ghost employees (former councilor Ibay has now just chimed in) but, as Binay says, is anybody listening?

Binay's outstanding political political achievement is that he is the only OIC appointed by Cory Aquino in Metro Manila who remains at his post. How does he do it?

Makati is actually two cities. First is the Makati business district with the upscale subdivisions around it that Ayala Corp. built after World War II. This ultra-modern city comprises 80 percent of the area and income of Makati, but accounts for only 20 percent of the votes. Second is the old, overcrowded Spanish town, which comprises only 20 percent of the area and income, but holds 80 percent of the votes.

Binay's political strategy is simple. He tells the Makati Business Club, "You take care of business, and I will take care of City Hall" (*Sa inyo ang negosyo, akin ang municipyo*). He collects the taxes from the business district and spends them on the old town where he has built parks, schools, a university and a first-class hospital. The poor get free medical care. The senior citizens get free movie tickets.

Insurance companies have all fled Manila to set up shop in business-friendly Makati. The local government tax rate on insurance premiums is the lowest in Metro Manila. As an insurance broker, I see to it that policies are issued in Makati to save on taxes for my clients.

I have lived in Makati since I built my house in Bel-Air in 1960. I earn my living and buy all my food and everything else I need in Makati. And since Binay became mayor, I have learned to love Makati.

Doing business with City Hall has become almost enjoyable. Information technology is widely used. Last year, it took only 15 minutes for me to get a certified computer-generated death certificate of my mother-in-law who had passed away 20 years earlier.

Of course, Binay is no saint. Everybody, including the vendors in the public market I go to, knows this. But suspending Binay, Vice Mayor Mercado and the entire City Council is clearly discriminatory and oppressive.

What Malacañang has done is to punish, not Binay and the city officials, but the entire citizenry of Makati.

But from the ramparts of his office in the 21st floor of the tallest city hall in the land, Binay will eventually come out smelling like roses to his constituents. In the end, he will be stronger that ever before. Malacañang will then realize that it has done Binay a great, great favor.

Gov't moves to curb ITH abuse

BOI, BIR to sign agreement soon

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS IS wrapping up a memorandum of agreement with the Bureau of Internal Revenue on a framework for the administration and monitoring of fiscal incentives, particularly income tax holiday.

The pact would amend current procedural guidelines on the application of ITH which, BOI officials said, was not being monitored sufficiently such that unscrupulous entities were able to abuse the incentive.

Even companies or agencies not registered with the BOI are able to claim tax exemption, the officials said.

Under the MOA, each income tax return that has with it an attached claim for ITH should be supported with a certificate of ITH entitlement to be issued by the BOI.

Also, any ITH application or claim filed beyond the 30-day limit from the date of ITR filing with the BIR would no longer be accepted.

Further, the BIR will consider claims without BOI endorsement as void.

The agreement also provides that the BOI has a year to process, review and act on all ITH applications filed for a given year.

If any application was not processed and evaluated within this prescribed period because of policy or legal issues, the BOI would require the applicant to secure from the BIR a waiver of stature of limitation.

The BOI and the BIR had been at odds over the beneficial effect of tax perks on the national coffers.

Trade officials had maintained that tax perks were essential for investments to flow while finance officials said the incentives resulted in billions of pesos in foregone revenues for the government.

Data from the Department of Finance show that in 2003, the government lost some P300 billion in foregone revenues due to various tax exemptions provided through fiscal perks.

BOI data, on the other hand, show that between 1995 and 2001, the government was able to attract an average of P10 in investments and P21 in export earnings for every peso of incentives.

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- TASP Technology

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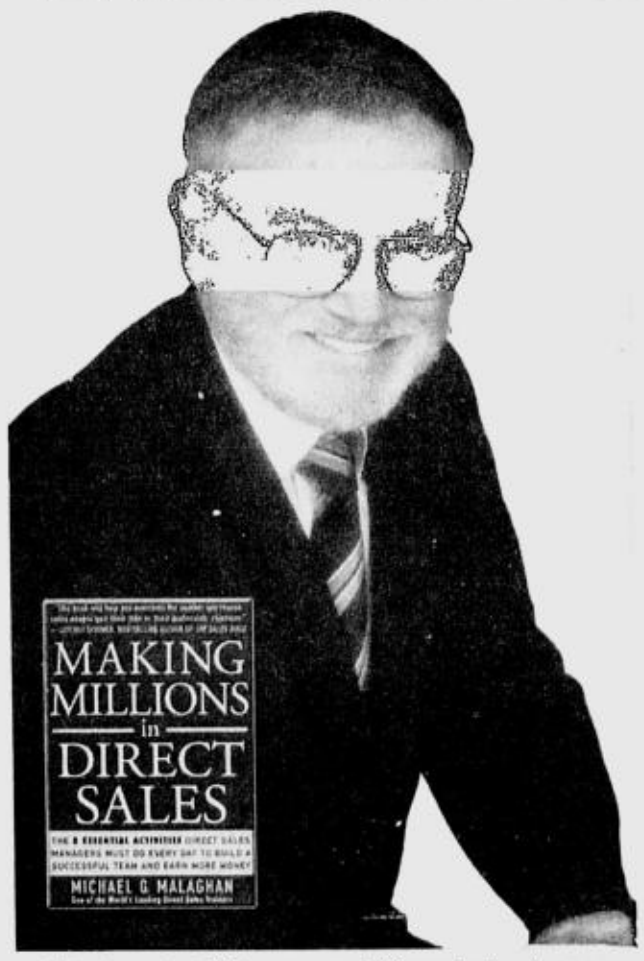

Malaghan started his career in 1961 as a book salesman. He finished his career 41 years later as president of International Horizons (licensee of The Walt Disney Company) leading five direct-sales organizations spread across Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan. In 1992, he started an incredible streak of increased sales every year for 11 consecutive years. After being promoted to president, he raised sales in Japan from $50M to $110M in three years as part of the quarter billion dollar empire he retired from only a few years ago. In the process, he created millionaires from the ranks of his sales managers.

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MICHAEL G. MALAGHAN

A legend in the field of sales
Author of "Making Millions in Direct Sales"

Session 2: Nov. 16, 2006
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Mike Malaghan shares 10 BIG BETS that gave his company an overwhelming competitive edge in the marketplace and 10 BIG SELF-IMPOSED MISTAKES that threatened his company. He will reveal how he made those decisions, why mistakes took too long to correct and what he learned from each failure and triumph.

Stories and examples include: • How listening to lawyers while ignoring consumerism almost cost his company an entire sales division • How a borrowed system soured labor-management relations and almost brought his company to bankruptcy in Japan • How a manager's trust and confidence in his team or lack thereof can make a huge difference in a team's performance • How an unprofitable agreement made more than 20 company employees millionaires • How the arrogance of one manager can stop organizational growth and how Mike turned this arrogance into an opportunity for explosive growth thus "turning a bad thing into a good thing" • How people with the best of intentions can produce the worst of results & how the same people can become leaders producing the best of results.

As you listen to Mike's stories and lessons he learned, think of your biggest mistake and what you learned. You might be asked to share your story!

JOIN and PARTICIPATE in 3 INTERACTIVE seminars conducted in the same transparent manner he used to fast-track leadership development in his company which resulted in an increase in sales five-fold in a decade.

Session 1: Nov. 15, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Tipping Points for Career Success

Session 3: Nov. 17, 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Strategies for Effective Leadership

Session descriptions available at:
www.optimusinnovations.com/events.html

VENUE: Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, H. V. de la Costa St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY
PSBank Center, 777 Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeño St., Makati City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of September 29, 2006

ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Items	517,760,998.27
Due from Bangko Sentral	1,619,413,324.01
Due from Other Banks	1,160,786,596.91
Interbank Loans Receivable	452,471,398.20
Trading Account Securities (Net)	164,191,286.03
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	16,313,540,329.86
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)	31,339,511,749.45
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)	2,099,477,564.31
Other Assets (Net):	
Property Owned/Acquired	1,673,969,416.70
Others	2,407,523,466.14
TOTAL ASSETS	**57,748,646,129.88**
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	5,819,509,081.62
Savings Deposits	8,809,642,087.81
Time Deposits	33,757,840,617.18
Due to Bangko Sentral	15,122,092.48
Due to Banks	-
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders	423,068,494.25
Bills Payable:	
BSP-Rediscounts/Special Programs	-
Others	1,965,337,606.75
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits	82,311,684.05
Other Liabilities	1,289,018,251.11
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**52,161,849,915.25**
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock	2,019,383,150.00
Surplus	3,114,665,859.21
Surplus Reserves	452,747,205.42
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	**5,586,796,214.63**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	**57,748,646,129.88**
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Bills for Collection	220,504.91
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	305,670,509.29
Invested in:	
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Share of Stock	91,952,771.03
Other Assets	213,717,738.26
Accountabilities:	
Trust & Other Fiduciary	305,277,452.73
Unearned Income & Other Accountabilities	393,056.56
Other Contingent Accounts	179,579,104.11
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	**485,470,118.31**
Additional Information:	
1. Deposits of	
a) Government	-
b) Banks	32,948,087.68
c) Trust Department	213,335,691.72
2. a. Total Non-Performing Loans	2,615,356,074.36
b. Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets	3,464,699,935.19
c. General Loan Loss Reserve	271,941,100.33
d. Specific Loan Loss Reserve	1,398,234,719.32
e. Total DOSRI Loans/Advances	1,683,887,362.69
f. Past Due DOSRI Loans Advances	-
g. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio	7.30%
h. Ratio of Total DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio	4.70%
i. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI to Total Loan Portfolio	-
j. Return on Equity	15.49%
3. Compliance with Magna Carta Law	
a. Prescribed Ratio of Comp for 6% (Small Ent)	34.83%
b. Prescribed Ratio of Comp for 2% (Medium Ent)	4.38%

Board of Directors

Jose T. Pardo
Chairman

Jovencio F. Cinco
Vice Chairman

Arthur V. Ty
Vice Chairman

Jose G. Araullo

Ma. Theresa G. Barretto

Margaret T. Cham

David O. Chua

Pascual M. Garcia III

Alfredo P. Javellana II

Regis V. Puno

Maria Ursula R. Resurreccion

Principal Officers

Pascual M. Garcia III
President

Rolando A. Rodriguez
Executive Vice President

Jaime V. L. Araneta
Senior Vice President

Noli S. Gomez
Senior Vice President

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF MAKATI) S. S.

We, PERFECTO RAMON Z. DIMAYUGA JR. and PASCUAL M. GARCIA III of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) PERFECTO RAMON Z. DIMAYUGA JR.
First Vice President

(Sgd) PASCUAL M. GARCIA III
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 20 October 2006 at City of Makati, affiant exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificates No. 02121638 issued at Makati City on January 16, 2006 and No. 12799268 issued at Quezon City on February 10, 2006.

Doc. No. 247
Book No. 55
Page No. CCLIV
Series of 2006

(Sgd) ATTY. JOSE HERNANDEZ DY
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2006
PTR No. 129401 Mkna. 1-17-06
IBP OR No. 642125 Mla. 1-17-06
City of Makati

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Ayala Life brings a 'Testamento' from across the miles

YOU TRAVELED THOUSANDS OF miles, rendered years of service to a foreign company, and fought the infinite loneliness of being away from your loved ones back home. All the hard work and challenges that you faced is a testimony to the sincerity and depth of your love for your family – and this legacy must not be forgotten.

This is what Ayala Life's "Testamento" is about – writing a lasting legacy for your loved ones, putting into words your desire for a better life and a brighter future you and your loved ones.

Ayala Life gives you a guide to writing your own legacy with "Testamento." "Testamento" is not only filled with useful information about products to help secure your future and a guide to writing your will, it is also filled with sincerity and a lot of heart.

Within the "Testamento," Ayala Life Assurance Inc, a subsidiary of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), introduces Protect 300. Dollar and Peso Protect 300 is a single-pay, savings and protection program. It provides maturity benefits at the end of 5 or 10 years, and insurance protection that is equal to 3-times the maturity benefit of the plan. It is the only savings and protection product in the market that provides 300 percent insurance protection – guaranteed.

In a briefing about the product, Cesar Tejada, president of BPI Bancassurance Inc (BBI), the distribution arm of Ayala Life Assurance Inc, highlighted that "Protect 300 is a no-frills savings and protection plan that guarantees your beneficiaries insurance benefits times three!"

He further cited that another attractive feature of Protect 300 is the assurance of growth in the investment. Protect 300 is the ideal long-term, risk-free, moderate-yield insurance cum investment product with guaranteed benefits. Basically, the premium is paid one time only, with an Internal Rate of Return (IRR) "as high as 7.40 percent on the Peso Protect 300 plan, and as high as 3.28 percent IRR on the Dollar Protect 300 plan." The minimum amount of coverage is P100,000 for Peso Protect 300, and $3,000 for Dollar Protect 300." In terms of age limit, plans may cover for someone as infantile as 31 days old. Younger plan-holders enjoy lower single premiums.

Emil De Quiros, president of Ayala Life Assurance Inc, asserted that "fundamentally, Protect 300 is best for just about anyone who wants to save money plus protect their loved ones from any financial burden." He added, "Everyone wishes to lead a comfortable life… We also understand the people's desire to secure their future as well as their loved ones'. Protect 300 will help them -- will help you – achieve these things. With Protect 300, we can and will help you achieve security and protection for yourself and your loved ones."

For more information on "Testamento" and Peso and Dollar Protect 300, you can contact your BPI Branch Manager, or you can call the Protect 300 hotline at 753-P300 (753-7300).

TMP BAGS 2006 PERSONNEL PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp (TMP) won the Personnel Program of the Year for its 'Team Relations' concept during the 30th Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) Annual Awards held recently at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. TMP established the Team Relations Section that carries the unique task to bridge management and team members and serves as the Human Resources Department's window to the different workplaces. In photo are (front from third left) Personnel Program of the Year judges Dexter Mendoza and Bienvenido Laguesma, TMP executive vice president Dr. David Go, TMP president Hiroshi Ito, TMP vice president for Human Resources Ma. Cristina Arevalo, TMP Team Relations manager Catherine Ann Benitez, PMAP president Emerico de Guzman, PMAP vice president Imelda Centena, and Team Relations staff Maria Lourdes Guieb, Ofelia Tirador, Amor Daez, Raul Tonogbanua, Philip Avellanosa, Hendrick Buendia, and Gerry Espinosa.

TOSHIBA-MITSUBISHI MOTORS JOINT PROMOTION LAUNCH

Photo shows the Toshiba-Mitsubishi Motors Joint Promotion Launch last Sept. 19, at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The partnership between the two giant Japanese companies was formalized via electronic signature using a Toshiba Tablet PC. The promo, which bundles the Toshiba Satellite L30-C330 Notebook PC with every purchase of selected Mitsubishi Motor Cars and LCVs. Present during the contract signing were (from left): Genevieve A. Abelinde (senior product specialist, Tricom Dynamics Inc); Tsunehiro Yamanishi (senior manager, business planning and development, computer services division, Toshiba Singapore PTE Ltd); Vicente C. Tantuico Jr. (executive vice president and COO, Tricom Dynamics Inc); Froilan G. Dytianquin (assistant vice president, marketing services, Mitsubishi Motors Phils Corp); Melchor R. Dizon (senior vice president, marketing, Mitsubishi Motors Phils Corp); Junichi Ishikawa (general manager, computer services division, Toshiba Singapore PTE Ltd); Edgardo B. Isleta Jr. (president and CEO, Tricom Dynamics Inc); Yoshiaki Ichimura (senior executive vice president, Mitsubishi Motors Phils Corp); Lim Kim Meng (manager, distributor business group, computer services division, Toshiba Singapore PTE Ltd); Roger A. Salvante (senior manager, notebook PC business unit, Tricom Dynamics Inc).

CameraHaus: A house of better cameras

CAMERAHAUS, A CONVENIENT ONE-stop camera shop, showcases comprehensive selection only of the better cameras and accessories from international brands like Canon, Pentax, Sony, Kodak, and Vivitar, among others - brands which people around the world have placed a great deal of trust through the years.

Importantly, all cameras purchased at CameraHaus carry an official factory parts-and-labor warranty card. Unlike verbal warranties, each card ensures the full professional service of camera specialists each time the customer checks in a camera for repair.

CameraHaus has a growing network of highly-accessible outlets in key cities such as Metro Manila, Cebu, Iloilo, Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

Today, CameraHaus has a wide array of cameras and accessories each one suited for every unique photographic need of the clients:

• Film Cameras - If you are looking for simplicity, go for Canon BF800. Or, go for the water-proof with Canon AS1 if you are an adventurous type.

• Digital Starter - Raring to go for your first digital experience? Try the Vivicam 3605 by Vivitar USA, affordably priced at P2,995 only!

• Economical and Easy-to-use - For economical and easy-to-use digital photography partner, try the Kodak C310 to capture hi-resolution 4MP images using the Kodak EasyShare system for one-touch uploading, printing and e-mailing.

• Family Photo Kit - The PowerShot A420 and the Canon Selphy 510 not only allow you to shoot and share but also to have an immediate print out. Best for parties and family gatherings.

• Handyman - Always on the go, the Pentax E10 is your partner in day-to-day digital photography : High resolution 6 megapixels, easy-to-use, compact and affordable.

• Lifestyle Statement - Pentax Optio A10 isn't a 10 for nothing! It packs all the best features in to compliment your sophisticated lifestyle. Or, check out the Canon IXUS series for its superb design and compact innovation.

• Professional Photographer - A distinctive line of professional cameras from Canon, Pentax and Sony is always a delight to professional photographers especially when a wide range of lenses, flashes and accessories are also available.

Check them out for the new models and be thrilled with the latest features built in the cameras such as image stabilizer and anti-dust for CCD protection.

• Widescreen Video Wonders - Record and watch memories on widescreen, either through brilliant videos or stunning digital photography, all in high Megapixel resolution images with the sleek and stylish compact camcorders from Canon or, Sony.

For inquiries, visit any of CameraHaus' outlets or call the head office at 524-4604; or CameraHaus-Glorietta at 815-9663/43.

Hair talk for men

IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE FOR most men to consider the onset of baldness like a death sentence. Men react to this unavoidable fact of their lives by wearing a headpiece, applying very expensive hair potions or just accepting the inevitable. But in recent years a more reliable option has became available. It is called Hair Transplantation. Dr. Andrew G. Pineda is noted as the pioneer of this surgical procedure in the country.

For the uninformed, Dr. Pineda emphasizes that Hair Transplantation is a safe, outpatient procedure with minimal pain. He says, "First of all, and, most importantly, the result of this technique is natural, permanent and nearly imperceptible from what nature could have given you. Secondly, there are no on going cost of maintenance programs unlike those required with hair replacements or weaves. Modern techniques allow a patient to have a full head of hair in two to three sessions."

Since establishing his practice in 1997, Dr. Pineda has done procedures on politicians, celebrities, priests, jeepney drivers, security guards, waiters and even working students. The Hair Transplantation procedure and its results had proven to be a dramatic experience, an epiphany of sorts, to many of the Hair Transplantation patients.

In our society, so much importance is attributed to having a full head of hair for our psychological and emotional well-being. Thanks to a highly sophisticated yet relatively simple procedure called Hair Transplantation, men are now assured that they can regain their "crowning glory."

CENTER FOR POP, 'PILIPINAS NGAYON NA' TIE-UP

Center for Pop Music Philippines features its singing stars in 'Pilipinas Ngayon Na' TV show every Sunday at 10 p.m. over PTV 4. Photo shows Press Undersecretary Robert Rivera (left), show host, shaking hands with Butch Albarracin, founder and CEO of Center for Pop Music Philippines (center) as CPMP COO Gwen Albarracin (right) looks on after the signing of the memorandum of agreement. 'Pilipinas Ngayon Na' features various personalities in a discussion of issues and current events affecting the country.

'DISENYONG ORIG... ATIN ITO' EXHIBIT

The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IP Philippines) recently launched an Industrial Design Exhibit entitled 'Disenyong Orig… Atin Ito' at the IP Philippines Building in Makati. The exhibit features outstanding Filipino designs in home and office furniture, handicrafts, decorative articles, and personal accessories. Photo shows (from left) IP Philippines Deputy Director General Ireneo M. Galicia, DTI Undersecretary Zoraida Amelia C. Alonzo, IP Philippines Director General Adrian Cristobal Jr., DTI Secretary Peter B. Favila, DTI Undersecretary Zenaida C. Maglaya, and Deputy Commissioner of the State Intellectual Property Office of China Li Yuguang. The exhibit is open to the public until Nov. 17. IP Philippines is located at 351 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. For more information, call (632) 752-5450, e-mail dittb@ipophil.gov.ph, or visit www.ipophil.gov.ph.

ProductFILES

McRice Burger rocks Manila

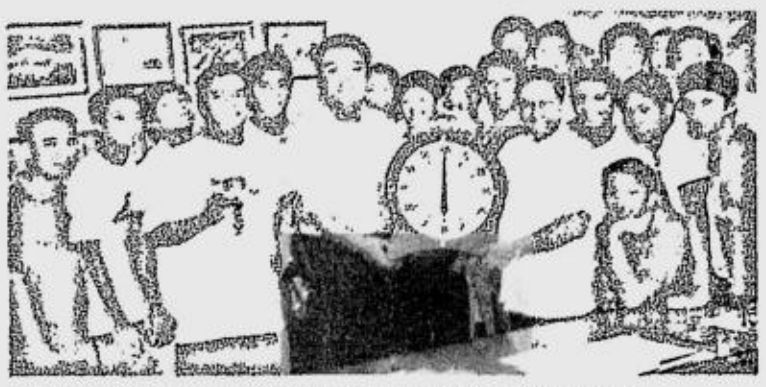
AFTER ACHIEVING MUCH SUCCESS IN TAIWAN and Singapore, McRice Burger invades the Philippines by delivering a uniquely convenient take on rice. The world's number one quick service restaurant serves up a savvy, yummy way of enjoying rice with the McRice Burger. This new burger sensation comes in two delicious variants, Beef Supreme and Chicken Supreme. McRice Burger consists of the finest grains of fragrant white rice, steamed and pressed into two round patties and toasted to golden perfection. Each rice patty is topped with black and white toasted sesame seeds for that wonderful aroma. For Beef Supreme, it comes with a juicy beef patty dipped in rich, sweet, and tangy Asian Barbeque Sauce. While Chicken Supreme includes a crispy yet tender chicken fillet topped with special garlic mayo. There is also fresh green lettuce and shredded red cabbage to give it a nutritious crunch and color. Beef Supreme sells for only P75 and Chicken Supreme for only P85.

New Selecta Fortified Filled Milk

MOTHERS NEED NOT SCRIMP ON their budget just to buy the best milk drink for their children. With Selecta Fortified Filled Milk, you'll get a highly nutritious yet very affordable, and most of all, yummy drink the kids will surely love. Selecta only know too well the necessity for kids to have all the nutrients to aid in their growth, and of course the need for parents to fit the budget. So the company came up with Selecta Fortified Filled Milk which comes in three sizes - 1-liter, 250 mL and 150 mL. The smallest pack, which is equivalent to a glass of milk, is priced less than P7 only! It is is priced an average 25 percent lower than most liquid milk in tetra packaging despite winning in consumer tests on taste and purchase intent. Selecta Fortified Filled Milk is available not only in supermarkets but in sari-sari stores and school canteens as well.

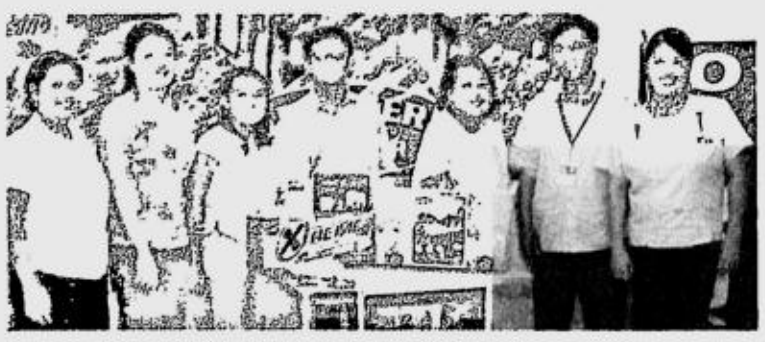
Prokids introduces Pillow Pals

PROKIDS PREMIUM BABY DIAPers introduces the Prokids Pillow Pals. They are the perfect companion for your little ones when they fall asleep. To get these Pillow Pals, simply collect wrappers with intact points of Prokids Premium Baby Diapers with Soft Cottony Magic Tape. With just 8 points, mommies get one collectible baby pillow. You can choose from any 4 animal designs: Dog, Pig, Lion or Monkey. Simply submit the required Prokids Premium Baby Diapers with Soft Cottony Magic Tape wrappers together with the complete information: sender's name, complete address where you want the premium item/s delivered, baby's name and age, telephone and/or mobile phone numbers, signature of parent/guardian plus the desired premium item, written on a piece of paper and enclosed in an envelope. For hard-to-find locations, landmark information of the address is encouraged for easy reference. Entries are then to be mailed at these addresses: "Prokids Pillow Pals", JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc, 31st Floor, Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or to P.O. Box 14280 Pasig City. And what's best about this is mommies may join as many times as they want. Promo ends Dec. 31.



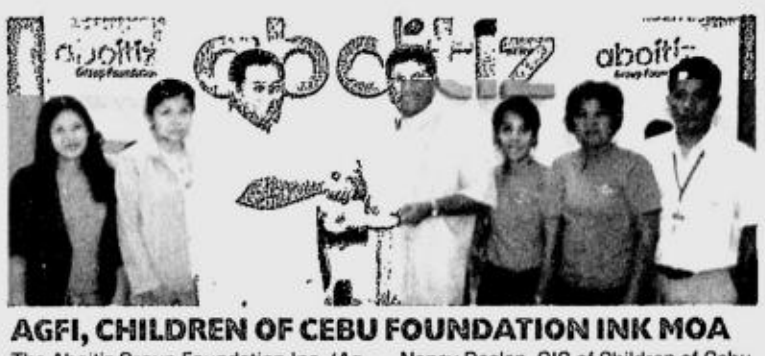
SWIMMING EQUIPMENT FOR SBC TANKERS

James T. Sy (6th from left) of San Beda High School 1980 and a Most Distinguished Bedan Awardee, donated swimming equipment (worth P300,000) for the use of last year's NCAA swimming competition champions - San Beda College. Shown receiving the equipment from James T. Sy are head coach, Gavino Roxas Jr., Very Rev. Fr. Paul de Vera, OSB, and members of the SBC Swimming Team.



BROTHERS BURGER RAFFLE PROMO

Brothers Burger Inc recently picked the 1st winners of 'A Ticket to Freebies and Prizes' preliminary draw, which was sponsored by generous Brothers Burger partners from Axis Global, who handles Creative Labs and Olympus Cameras, and Astra Magic Sing. Held at the Brothers Burger Headquarters on Pasong Tamo last Sept. 11, winners were drawn by Brothers Burger's GM Estelita Ocampo, and witnessed by Mario B. Asis of the DTI and other close Brothers Burger partners who made this event possible. The grand draw will be held on Dec. 14, where P1,000 GCs, an Olympus MJU Mini Digital Camera, an Xtreme Magic Sing Version 9, and Creative Labs ZEN Vision M are up for grabs. So just keep on purchasing P300 worth of delicious Brothers Burger meals for a coupon and drop them in any drop box at any Brothers Burger outlet on or before Dec. 7.



AGFI, CHILDREN OF CEBU FOUNDATION INK MOA

The Aboitiz Group Foundation Inc, (Agfi) and the Children of Cebu Foundation recently signed their Memorandum of Agreement. At the turnover of the check were, from left, street educators Mirafel Avelino and Helen Supilanas; Nancy Daclan, OIC of Children of Cebu Foundation Inc; Agfi managing trustee Sonny Carpio, Cebu Children Foundation director Jacob Koshy, street educators Helen Pulgo and Cora Abapo, and Agfi project officer Alex Lauron.

New amlodipine camsylate gets BFAD approval

IT'S NOW OFFICIAL. A NEW BRAND of amlodipine camsylate will soon be available in the market courtesy of Therapharma Inc, a division of United Laboratories (Unilab).

The Bureau of Food and Drugs has recently granted a certificate of product registration for the new brand of amlodipine. The BFAD has conducted a stringent evaluation of all documents and samples of the new brand of amlodipine to assess its efficacy and safety and the issuance of its certificate of product registration indicates that the new product has passed all tests for efficacy and safety.

The new brand of amlodipine will be sold at almost 50 percent lower than the originator brand. This is good news to the almost 7 million Filipinos who are suffering from hypertension, most of whom cannot comply with their treatment because of the high price of medicine.

Amlodipine is one of the most scientifically well-documented drugs which have been shown to be effective and safe in the treatment of hypertension. A major barrier, however, for a more satisfactory patient compliance is the cost of the medicine. There has long been a clamor among doctors and patients alike on another brand of amlodipine which is bioequivalent as the innovator brand but is more affordable.

Amlodipine efficacy

According to a 2004 study published in the Journal of Clinical Therapeutics, amlodipine camsylate has been shown to be equivalent compared with the formulation of the originator brand of amlodipine. This was based on pharmacokinetic (bodily absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of drugs) and pharmacodymic (effects of the drug) studies.

The study was conducted in healthy male Korean subjects aged 20 to 40 years. All subjects received a single oral dose of either conventional or the newly developed amlodipine camsylate formulation. Blood samples for pharmacokinetic analysis of amlodipine were obtained during the 144-hour period after dosing. Systolic and diastolic blood pressure and pulse rate were measured prior to each blood sampling. Furthermore, safety profiles were assessed such as hematology and biochemistry, electrocardiography, urinalysis, and adverse events.

Amlodipine camsylate is a crystalline salt of amlodipine suitable for pharmaceutical formulation. It meets all the required pharmaceutical properties as an effective antihypertensive and anti-anginal agent. As a calcium antagonist, it blocks the transport of calcium within the microscopic channels in the walls of the coronary arteries. This effect relaxes the artery muscles and dilates the coronary arteries and the peripheral arteries. Such action relieves chest pain and lowers the blood pressure.

In a country where hypertension is prevalent and a big portion of the population is under the poverty line, the introduction of a safe, effective and affordable medicine is a welcome change. More and more Filipino patients are clamoring for local pharmaceutical companies, such as Unilab, to provide them with effective medicines at a price which they can afford.

KODAK, LAKING NATIONAL TIE UP

Kodak Philippines Ltd together with National Bookstore's Laking National Cardholders (LNC) through the cooperation with Wordtext Systems Inc signed a tie-up agreement Aug. 10 at the NBS office in Mandaluyong City. This effort is aimed at providing LNCs with Kodak Easyshare Cameras at discounted costs. Shown are: (from left) Apol Gacad, NBS marketing executive-customer relationship marketing; Judith Rivera, NBS manager-customer relationship marketing; Rommel Pajarin, sales manager, Kodak Philippines Ltd; Jon Abaquin, AVP marketing Wordtext Systems Inc (WSI); Michelle Bautista, WSI product specialist for Kodak and Arlene Averion, Kodak Philippines Ltd account manager. The promo is open to all Laking National Cardholders to avail themselves of the Kodak C310 only at P5,500 instead of its regular price of P5,995. Other Kodak camera models like the C330, C530, C533, C643, C663, V603, V570 and V610 (the first digital camera with built in Bluetooth) can also be availed of at special discount. Laking National Cardholders availed of these hot offers simply by presenting their Laking National Cards to the following computer store outlets nationwide: Accent Micro, PC Live, Asianic, Enigma Computers, and Bohol Megabyte.

Breast cancer walk attracts 12,000 participants

THERE MAY BE 10,000 FILIPINAS GETTING diagnosed with breast cancer every year, but even thousands more are committed to helping women win the fight against breast cancer.

Last Oct. 22, over 12,000 men and women in Manila, Bacolod and Cagayan de Oro joined Avon in creating awareness and raising funds through the 'Walk Against Breast Cancer'.

The participants included celebrities, breast cancer survivors and their families, Avon dealers, franchise managers and associates, students, athletes, and even pets.

In Manila, the largest contingent that gathered at the SM Mall of Asia consisted of 5,000 students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Breast cancer support groups Aruga, ICanServe, Bosom Buddies, Breast Cancer Society of Manila, Breast Friends East Avenue, Hug Inc, Joy in Living, and Pink Forum were present.

The walk was made more colorful by a big delegation of Astra Zeneca employees led by president Alan Knox in their bright pink T-shirts. Other partners like the Philippine Cancer Society, GMA-7/ QTV-11, SM Mall of Asia, Equitable PCI Bank, PLDT, Smart and RCBC were present in full force.

The Girl Scouts of the Philippines, Mt. Everest Team and Manila Dragons Dragonboat Rowing Team also participated.

"We are ecstatic about the number of people--about 7,500 of them--who woke up really early and are here today for a good cause. It's such a wonderful feeling," says new Avon general manager Bob Briddon.

"I have attended several of these walks in different parts of the world and I am impressed by the Filipinos' commitment to fighting breast cancer," he adds.

The Manila leg was hosted by GMA-7 talents Iza Calzado and Arnold Clavio. Veteran actor Leo Martinez, breast cancer survivor Maritoni Fernandez and newcomer Lovie Poe also joined the event. A warm-up session was led by Regine Tolentino and fitness instructors Meya Aquino and Linda Candolesa.

Globally, Avon has been advocating early detection of breast cancer since 1992. Since then and with more than 30 countries taking part in fundraising events such as the Walk, Avon has raised more than $500 million in funds. In the Philippines, funds raised have helped establish and maintain the Philippine General Hospital Breast Care Center and provide hospitals in key cities with breast care equipment.

The event was made possible through the support of partners Astra Zeneca Oncology, GMA-7 and QTV-11, Philippine Cancer Society, the SM Mall of Asia, the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and sponsors Equitable PCIBank, PLDT, SMART, RCBC, In Shape/Sepphil, Bine Philippines, the Philippine College of Surgeons and the Philippine Reclamation Authority.

Sony Ericsson, MasterCard team up for new promo

THE SONY ERICSSON P990i, THE most anticipated mobile business communication device in the market, is now available in an exclusive offer from MasterCard. Cardholders who charge their purchase of the Sony Ericsson P990i in participating outlets to their Platinum, Titanium or Gold MasterCard get a free Bluetooth Headset HBH-PV700.

The Sony Ericsson P990i partnered with the HBH-PV700 headset enables any mobile warrior to handle business and leisure easily. The headset is a lightweight and ergonomic device that keeps you clearly in touch on the go. The phone also offers a new suite of features and applications that meets the needs of every mobile business lifestyle.

The P990i's 2-megapixel camera with autofocus doubly functions as a business card scanner. You'll never have to input contact information manually or lose a contact if you lose their business card. The phone's large 2.8-touchscreen is able to scan the complete information and store it directly to your contacts file.

The P990i also offers a push e-mail facility for fast and secure access to your corporate and personal e-mail, with support for various push e-mail service providers. Powered with 3G connectivity, the WiFi-enabled P990i gives users ultra-fast Web access anytime, anywhere. Viewing full HTML pages in landscape has also been made possible with the new Opera 8 browser.

The P990i also enables video conferencing, streaming video and playback at 30 frames, and has a touch-based picture editor, FM radio, clock radio, stopwatch and timer. A fully specified music player also supports MP3, AAC and AAC+ formats. The P990i also has flight mode for access to different applications while the phone is off during flights.

Participating outlets include Sony Ericsson Concept Shops nationwide; Avant in Greenbelt 4; Abenson in Glorietta 1, Eastwood Libis, Robinsons Galleria, Shangri-la Plaza Mall; Ambassador in Shangri-la Plaza Mall and Park Square 1; Automatic Centre in Glorietta 4, Gateway Mall, Festival Supermall and SM North Edsa; Comcenter in Park Square 1, Market! Market! and SM San Lazaro; Semicon in Cyber One Mall, SM Southmall, The Podium, Power Plant Mall, SM Centerpoint, SM Fairview, SM Megamall and SM North Edsa; and Western Marketing in Pasay Road, Makati and SM Megamall.

The Sony Ericsson P990i-MasterCard promo is valid until Nov. 19.

BEAR BRAND 'TRANSIT BLITZ' WINNERS AWARDED

Bear Brand Sterilized Milk, a name trusted for generations for recovery from exhaustion, recently awarded the winners of its recently concluded 'Bear Brand Sterilized Transit Blitz'. Four jeepney drivers from Pasig City received P20,000 worth of cash prizes and jeepney makeovers. Three other drivers won P5,000 each, while each of the seven consolation prize winners took home Bear Brand Sterilized gift packs and cash prizes. Over P300,000 worth of cash prizes and jeepney packages were also given away to lucky jeepney drivers all over Metro Manila and Pampanga. The Bear Brand Sterilized Transit Blitz recognizes the hard work endured by the working class of Metro Manila like jeepney drivers, and aims to assist them in their everyday jobs by giving them the energy they need to last the day. Shown is Gabby Posadas of Nestlé Philippines marketing promotions and events beverages and adult nutrition with the grand prize winners.

Pressured by population growth, gov'ts seek new road technologies

PRESSURED BY POPULATION growth and increasing global vehicular traffic, governments of developed and developing countries are on the lookout for new road technologies that can ease the load of the world's crowded streets.

These countries, according to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), include those in Asia and Australasia, where road infrastructure accounts for a huge chunk of government expenditures and where vehicular traffic results in excessive wastage of precious fuel and productivity loss.

"Thus, new technologies that can bring about more and better roads and bridges at lesser costs and bulk would be a welcome relief," said DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane.

"Such state-of-the-art technologies and practices will be taken up during the 12th International conference of the Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia (REAAA)," Ebdane added.

Scheduled from Nov. 20 to 24 at the Philippine International Convention Center, the REAAA conference will gather the world's biggest assembly of road engineering experts to provide solutions to this global problem.

"The solutions will be fully discussed during the technical sessions where some 200 technical papers from the association's 28-member countries and other parts of the world will be presented," said REAAA president Salvador A. Pleyto, the first-ever Filipino to occupy the position in its 33-year history.

"The innovations range extensively from road planning and design to pavement performance, safety engineering, heavy vehicle dynamics, road user behavior, transport economics, environment, and local area traffic management, among others," Pleyto explained.

The most viable and regionally applicable among them are expected to be included in the discussion among the officials of REAAA's member-governments during their 5th Heads of Road Authorities (Hora) meeting, a parallel event to the conference.

"Some of the new technologies may have material science, a relatively new branch of scientific study, come into play because of the need for lighter but stronger and less expensive infrastructure components," said Ebdane, the host to his Hora counterparts in the conference.

He said the DPWH, REAAA, and the event's co-organizers-the REAAA-Philippine Chapter and the Road Engineering Association of the Philippines (Reap)-"are briskly preparing" for the country's historic hosting of this international conference.

The four-day event includes a grand exhibit of road engineering products, services, projects and technologies of local and foreign governments, contractors, suppliers, and allied industries.

Inquiries or reservations for the conference and exhibit can be made with event manager Fiera de Manila Inc (896-0639, fax 896-0637, e-mail fiera@info.com.ph, and websites www.reaaaconference.com.ph and www.fmi.com.ph).

An important aspect of the event is the 81st REAAA Governing Council Meeting, which will be presided over by Pleyto.

The 15-man council was created when REAAA was organized in 1973, initially by 10 countries, to formalize regional cooperation and pave the way for technology transfer among its members.

The move was prompted by the inapplicability of many road technologies coming from outside the Asian and Australasian region because of environmental factors.

Globe Telecom joins POEA vs illegal recruiters

GLOBE TELECOM, THROUGH GLOBE Kababayan, its arm for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), has joined forces with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to raise public awareness and sustain the crackdown on illegal recruiters.

Since 2004, POEA and Globe Kababayan have developed projects to meet the common goal of ensuring that aspiring OFWs will be properly deployed overseas.

This year, Globe Kababayan provides a three-pronged support system for the POEA's anti-illegal recruitment campaign to ensure that OFWs will not fall into the hands of illegal recruitment agencies.

First, Globe mounted electronic billboard and signage at the POEA head office in Ortigas, showing applicants the legal way of applying overseas.

The company also constructed the POEA Globe Kababayan OFW Internet Hub, the first ever free Internet service and one-stop shop for Globe Telecom services.

Likewise, Globe produced brochures, flyers, and posters for distribution to the POEA regional and satellite offices as well as initiated a multimedia advertising campaign composed of print, radio, and TV ads designed to further strengthen awareness of the general public about POEAs anti-illegal recruitment campaign.

Globe also maximized the use of cell phones to make it easier for OFWs to access information on accredited agencies and, thereby, help them avoid illegal recruiters.

For instance, applicants who are Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile (TM) subscribers can simply text POEA to 2385 for a short-listed drop-down of value added services (VAS) features related to overseas job hunting. Information that can be accessed includes accreditation of recruitment agencies, job openings, and list of available occupations per country.

While POEA ensures decent and productive employment to OFWs, Globe shows its concern for the OFWs and their families by keeping them connected and empowering them to maximize their time, effort and money through tailor-fit, convenient and relevant cellular services through Globe Kababayan.

Right now, Globe Kababayan offers convenient reload services like International AutoloadMAX, International Share-A-Load, and Call Cards that allow Filipinos abroad to send prepaid load credits to their families back in the Philippines who are Globe or TM subscribers.

Meanwhile, G-Cash and Quick Remit and Load Cards allow OFWs to send remittances to their loved ones as quickly and as simple as sending a text message.

At the same time, Globe Kababayan has partnered with international telecommunications providers to give Filipinos the cheapest IDD and international text rates to Globe and TM subscribers in the Philippines.

More information on Globe Kababayan services can be viewed at www.globe kababayan.com.ph.

SM in caring partnership

BRIGHT WORDS LIKE "THE SALVATION ARMY CARES" start to dominate the air at Christmas. One can find them most prominently at SM Supermalls all over the nation. Without the generous partnering of SM Supermalls, the Salvation's Army cause for the poor cannot be sustained. The Salvation Army, a Christian organization and charitable institution, serves the Filipino community through its skills training programs, children and youth ministries and health and medical services among its many work of mercies. Every year, The Salvation Army finds inspiration to continue its mission of alleviating the plight of most people due to the unselfish partnership of SM Supermalls. SM allows Salvation Army workers and volunteers to put up kettle stands at the entrances and exits of malls. The SM Supermalls, especially at SM North Edsa, serves as the venue of its annual Red Shield Appeal launching, while SA promotional posters are viewed from strategic places of the malls. This year, SM Supermalls does it again with a soaring helping spirit.

Bedan Law Alumni homecoming

THE SAN BEDA LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, IN COOPERATION with The Law Class of 1981 (Silver Jubilarians) and the Law Class of 1956 (Golden Jubilarians), present "Magkaisa...Pamilyang San Beda: An Annual Homecoming & Fellowship Night." Honorable Artemio V. Panganiban, Chief Jusice of the Philippines, will be the guest of honor and speaker. The event will be held at the Kalayaan Hall, Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila on Nov. 15 at 6 p.m. Tickets priced at P1,500 are available at the SBC Alumni Office, Mendiola, Manila. For more information, call 735-5995 or 0917-8072222.

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Zamboanga City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee I (BAC I), invites Suppliers/Manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

LOT NO.	PR NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DATE OF SUBMISSION OPENING OF BIDS
1	9304	RICE (BEST QUALITY) FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2006	P 513,000.00	P 500.00	October 25 to November 3, 2006	November 7, 2006	November 21, 2006
2	9267	PE & HDPE PIPE, SDR 11, ISO FOR NEW TAPPING & STOCK REPLENISHMENT	P 679,234.92	P 600.00	October 25 to November 3, 2006	November 7, 2006	November 21, 2006
3	9284 9279	WATER METER SIZES: ½" D, 2" D & 3" D FOR NEW TAPPING & STOCK REPLENISHMENT	P 1,236,283.00	P 1,000.00	October 25 to November 3, 2006	November 7, 2006	November 21, 2006
4	9253 9280 9288	VARIOUS BRASS FITTINGS FOR NEW TAPPING & STOCK REPLENISHMENT	P 2,802,340.00	P 1,500.00	October 25 to November 3, 2006	November 7, 2006	November 21, 2006
5	9251 9252 9282 9286	VARIOUS CAST IRON FITTINGS FOR STOCK REPLENISHMENT	P 560,506.00	P 500.00	October 25 to November 3, 2006	November 7, 2006	November 21, 2006

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall be advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00 - 5:00 pm).

All Bids must be accompanied by a *Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's and Manager's Check in the amount of One Percent (1%) of the Approved Budget Cost.* Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid Opening shall be at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Pilar St., Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative's who choose to attend at the address below.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Noel M. Kawaguchi
Pilar St., Zamboanga City 7000
Telephone No. (062) 991-1556
Email:
Fax: (062) 991-2799

(Sgd.) ARNULFO A. ALFONSO
BAC I Chairman

(PDI--Oct. 30, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City (CLRO) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for Reroofing of Warehouse I at NFA Balagtas and San Miguel Warehouse of Bulacan Branch Office.

NAME OF PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET
LOT I - Reroofing of Warehouse I, Balagtas	Php 2,045,663.43
LOT II - Reroofing of Warehouse, San Miguel	Php 7,959,185.27

SCHEDULE OF PRE-QUALIFICATION, PRE-BIDDING AND BIDDING

Issuance of Contractor's Eligibility Forms and Dealine for Submission of Accomplished Contractor's Eligibility Forms and Requirements	November 13-17, 2006
Issuance of Bid Documents	November 20-28, 2006
Pre-bidding conference	November 29, 2006, 2:00 pm
Bidding proper	December 12, 2006, 2:00 pm

All interested parties shall submit their eligibility statements and bid proposal in the prescribed forms to the Chairman of the bid and award committee (BAC), National Food Authority, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City.

Eligibility forms may be secured at the NFA-BAC Secretariat upon presentation of letter of intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five hundred pesos (Php 500.00) per project.

Bidding documents and plans shall be issued only to eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 2,000.00 per project.

All particulars relative to eligibility, bid bond, performance bond, pre-bid conference, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provision of RA-9184 and other applicable rules and regulations.

Venue for the pre-bidding conference, submission and opening of bids shall be at the NFA Regional Office, Conference Room.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, Thereof, to waive any formalities or defects found, or to accept such bids or to award to any contractor whose bids is considered most advantageous to the NFA or to the Government.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN J. RESIDE**
Assistant Regional Director
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – Oct. 30 & Nov. 6, 2006)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **South China Resources, Inc.** (formerly South China Petroleum & Exploration, Inc.) has moved to a new address:

3/F Low Rise Pacific Star Bldg., Sen Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

We can be reached thru the following numbers:

Tel. No.: (632) 892-2049
Telefax No.: (632) 812-2383

(PDI - Oct. 23 to 27, Oct. 30 to 31, & Nov. 1 to 3, 2006)

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J. LANUZA - AUCTIONEER

Novena to Saint Claire

Ask St. Claire for 3 favors: 1 business, 2 impossible. Say 8 Hail Marys for 9 days with lighted candles. Pray whether you believe it or not. Publish on the 9th day. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored and glorified today and everyday. Request will be granted no matter how impossible it seems, St. Claire, St Jude, St. Therese, Infant of Prague, St. Ann, St. Joseph, Pray for us.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
(Public Estates Authority)
7/F Legaspi Towers 200 Bldg., 107 Paseo de Roxas St., Legaspi Village, 1226 City of Makati
Tel. Nos. (02) 817-4711 to 13; (02) 813-1441 to 45; Facsimile No. (02)815-2662
Website: www.pea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) EQUIPMENT FOR PRA MAIN OFFICE (06-007)

1. The Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), through its corporate budget intends to apply the sum of **Three Million Three Hundred Forty Thousand Pesos (Php 3,340,000.00)**, inclusive of VAT being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to cover the payment for the contract for the purchase of Various IT Equipment for PRA Main Office. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the Bid opening.
2. The PRA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of fifty-one (51) desktop computers, eight (8) laptop computers, two (2) colored inkjet printers, one (1) all-in-one colored printer, one (1) tower-type database server, one (1) tower-type firewall server, one (1) KVM switch, one (1) DAT 72 tape drive with six (6) tapes, four (4) wireless access points, one (1) 24-port 10/100/1000 switches, and four (4) boxes CAT5e cables for PRA Main Office in Makati City. The delivery of the above-requirements shall be within ten (10) Calendar Days after issuance of the Notice to Proceed (NTP). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II and Annex A of Section III of the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents starting **October 30, 2006** from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from **November 7 to 10, 2006** by interested Bidders from the BAC Secretariat and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **Three Thousand Three Hundred Forty Pesos (Php3,340.00)**. The method of payment will be cash or check payable to PRA. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PRA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **November 9, 2006** at 10:00 A.M. at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the PRA (7th Floor) Office on or before **November 23, 2006** not later than 10:00 o'clock A.M. (PRA wall clock time). All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the BDS, Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **November 23, 2006** at 10:15 A.M. at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. Pursuant to BIR Revenue Regulations 03-2005, all prospective bidders are mandated to file their income and business tax returns electronically using the Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS).
10. The PRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.
11. The PRA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **SILVESTRE H. BELLO III**
General Manager/CEO

(PDI--October 30 & Nov. 6, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
TONDO MEDICAL CENTER
Balut, Tondo, Manila

TMC BID & AWARD COMMITTEE

The Tondo Medical Center hereby invites sealed written bid for the procurement and delivery of Food stuff, Various Equipment, for the first semester cy 2007, Security & Janitorial Services for the cy 2007.

Interested applicants must submit pre-qualifications supporting documents, payment of non-refundable fee for Food stuff Php 500, Various Equipments Php 1,500, Janitorial Services Php 1,500 and Security Services Php 1,500, for complete list please get a copy from Supply Office, Balut, Tondo, Manila.

The schedule of Bidding activities are as follows:

	Issuance of Bids	Pre-Bid Conference	Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids	Source of Funds	ABC
Janitorial Services	Nov. 6, 2006 to Nov. 24, 2006	Nov. 27, 2006 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 18, 2006 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Dec. 18, 2006 10:30 a.m.	REGULAR, INCOME & REVOLVING FUNDS	Php 4,833,720.36
Food stuff	Nov. 6, 2006 to Nov. 24 2006	Nov. 28, 2006 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 19, 2006 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Dec. 19, 2006 10:30 a.m.		Php 2,700,000.00
Security Services	Nov. 6, 2006 to Nov. 24, 2006	Nov. 29, 2006 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 20, 2006 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Dec. 20 2006 10:30 a.m.		Php 2,160,000.00
Various Equipment	Nov. 6, 2006 to Nov. 24, 2006	Dec. 1, 2006 9:00 a.m.	Dec. 21, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Dec. 21, 10:30 a.m.		Php 1,000,000.00

All particulars relatives to the eligibility process, bid bond, performance bond, pre-bid conference, bid evaluation an award of contract shall be governed by the implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9154, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

All activities shall be held at Tondo Medical Center, Conference Room, Balut, tondo, Manila unless announced otherwise.

For further details, please contact Secretariat Ms. Nora Castillo, Tondo Medical Center at Tel. Numbers 251-84-21 to 23 loc. 207 / 253-61-03.

TONDO MEDICAL CENTER BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY BID TO ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS REJECT ALL BIDS AT ANYTIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER/BIDDERS ON THE REASONS FOR DOING SO, TMC BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY BID FOR THE DEEMIT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) VICTOR J. DELA CRUZ, MD, CESO IV
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI – October 23 & 30, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar Street, Zamboanga City

SECTION I. INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Zamboanga City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee I (BAC I), invites Suppliers/Manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

PR NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS	DATE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DATE OF SUBMISSION OPENING OF BIDS
9242	Rice-Best Quality for the Month of November 2006	P 505,500.00	P 500.00	October 23 to 31, 2006	November 2, 2006	November 7, 2006

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules & Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of the Eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall be advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall be then awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00 – 5:00 p.m.).

All Bids must be accompanied by a ***Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's and Manager's Check in the amount of One Percent (1%) of the Approved Budget Cost.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid Opening shall be at the 2nd Floor, ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT Main Office Building, Pilar St. Zamboanga City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representative's who choose to attend at the address below.

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time or prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Mr. Noel M. Kawaguchi
Pilar St., Zamboanga City 7000
Telephone No. (062) 991-1556
Email:
Fax: (062) 991-2799

(Sgd.) ARNULFO A. ALFONSO
BAC I Chairman

(PDI – October 30, 2006)

New hepa B drug promising

IN TWO HEPATITIS B studies, researchers have confirmed that patients treated for one year with peginterferon alfa-2a have a durable response that lasts for years after stopping therapy. This response means that patients can live without the burden of daily antiviral medications. Results from these studies were presented at the recently concluded 41st annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) in Vienna, Austria.

"Peginterferon alfa-2a acts in two ways: by having direct antiviral activity, and boosting the body's immune system. These two actions help patients achieve lasting remission that continues for at least a year after treatment has stopped. This is encouraging news as patients in remission do not need daily, life-long, antiviral medication," said professor Patrick Marcellin, hepatologist at the Hôpital Beaujon, Clichy, France and an investigator of the studies. Approximately 1 million people die from chronic hepatitis B annually, making it the 10th leading cause of death worldwide.

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JOB Market

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
Municipality of Bantay

OFFICE OF THE BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

October 16, 2006

The Municipality of Bantay, through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of:

Construction of Bantay Arcade — *P42,000,000.00*

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary "pass/fail" in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference/s, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedue of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 6, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	November 10, 2006 @ 10:00 AM
3. Opening of Bids and Bid Evaluation	November 17, 2006 @ 2:00 PM
4. Post Qualification	-x-
5. Notice of Award	-x-

The BAC will issue to Prospective Bidders Eligibility Forms at the Municipality of Bantay, Ilocos Sur, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee (for Eligibility Form) to the Municipal Treasurer. Prospective Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bid Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be Eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable fee (for Bidding Documents) to the Municipal Treasurer of Bantay, Ilocos Sur.

The BAC and the Municipal Government of Bantay assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **JONATHAN V. GOROSPE**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 30 & Nov. 6, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration

Needed Immediately

GENERAL MANAGER

for

AKLAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (AKELCO)
Lezo, Aklan

Qualifications:

- 30-50 Years Old
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Must be Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Aklan

Starting Salary: P35,000.00

Application form and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 15 November 2006

(Sgd.) **EDITA S. BUENO**
Administrator

(PDI – Oct. 29 & 30, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration

Needed Immediately

GENERAL MANAGER

for

BUKIDNON II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BUSECO)
Malaybalay City, Bukidnon

Qualifications:

- 30-50 Years Old
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Must be Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon

Starting Salary: P35,000.00

Application form and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 15 November 2006.

(Sgd.) **EDITA S. BUENO**
Administrator

(PDI – Oct. 29 & 30, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL NEGROS
Bids and Awards Committee
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Provincial Government of Oriental Negros invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of a **Computerized Hospital Management Information System (CHMIS) for the Oriental Negros Provincial Hospital (ABC: P13,500,000.00)**

The list of eligibility requirements is now available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office (PGSO) Capitol Area, Dumaguete City, with Tel./Fax # (035) 422-8895.

The **Pre-Bid Conference** is scheduled on **November 3, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol, Dumaguete City while the **submission and opening of bids** is scheduled on **November 16, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at the PGSO, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial General Services Officer

(PDI – October 23 & 30, 2006)

ACFJ offers 15 fellowships

THE KONRAD ADENAUER ASIAN CENTER for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University (ACFJ) is offering 15 fellowship grants to outstanding working journalists interested in pursuing the Master of Arts in Journalism at the Ateneo starting school year 2007-2008. The ACFJ fellowships support the graduate studies of seasoned journalists as well as young journalists who have the potential to do excellent work and contribute to good journalism in their communities. The grants cover full tuition and costs of travel, accommodation and books, among others.

The fellowships are given to full-time staff members of a news organization in Asia. Applicants are screened on the basis of their professional and academic record, proven commitment to journalism and leadership qualities.

Applications for the fellowship grant will be accepted until Oct. 31.

Applications for the fellowship may be downloaded from http://acfj.ateneo.edu or requested by e-mail at newsroom@admu.edu.ph. The ACFJ may also be called at 926-3253 or 426-6001 local 5215, or fax 926-3254.

OBITUARIES

✝

MANUEL TRIGO PAZOS

Vdo. de **Magdalena Bonnín Zayco**
(12 de noviembre de 1938 – 28 de octubre de 2006)

Fallecío después de haber recibido los Santos Sacramentos en
San Xenxo, Pontevedra, España
Su esposa, **Marilou Balajadia Rivera**;
Hijos, **Juan Manuel Trigo Bonnín, Maria del Pilar Trigo Bonnín de Tuason**
Maria Lina Trigo Bonnín de Chavez y Bernardo Gabriel Trigo Bonnín;
Hijos políticos, **Montserrat Fernández-Cuervo, Nicasio Antonio Tuason**
Joe Chavez y Regina Maria Planas; Nietos, **Maria Marina y Nicasio Antonio**;
Hermanas, **Maria del Pilar y Elena**;
Hermanos politicos, **Jose Enrique y Mario** y démas familia ruegan una oración para el eterno descanso de su alma

OBITUARIES

DR. DELFIN T. PROTACIO

JOYFULLY RETURNED TO HIS CREATOR ON
OCTOBER 28, 2006 AT THE AGE OF 97.

HUSBAND OF THE LATE
HONORATA LAUDICO PROTACIO

FATHER OF:
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BENJAMIN & SOCORRO (EUSEBIO),
CARMENCITA & ROMEO HERMAN,
DANILO & BERNADETTE (UMALI),
EDGARDO & EVELYN (PACIS);

GRANDFATHER OF:
MIKO, MIA, MARCO AND MIRELLA & DANNY;
RIZA & IVAN, GIANCARLO AND GINO ROBERTINO;
REINE MARIE & ANDREA, PAOLO AND JOSEF;
PIPPIN, GIA AND GRAZIELLA

GREAT GRANDFATHER OF:
PATRICIA, GIOSUE AND NICCÓLO

WE WELCOME FRIENDS AND ALL THOSE WHOSE LIVES HE TOUCHED AT THE SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, FORBES PARK, MAKATI CITY.

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INTERMENT WILL FOLLOW AT THE MANILA MEMORIAL PARK, SUCAT, PARAÑAQUE CITY.

Hotels gain tax perks for renovation work

Modernization estimated to cost P855M

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS HAS granted tax perks to two hotel modernization projects worth a combined P855 million.

One project was Philippine Hoteliers Inc.'s P520-million renovation of rooms that have been worn out "due to high occupancy in the past years."

A member of the Thailand-based Dusit Hotels and Resort chain, PHI operates Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City.

The company wants renovation done on 520 rooms to improve their quality and maintain the hotel's competitiveness.

Work is expected to be completed by August 2007.

PHI's project also covers renovation of all banquet facilities and restaurants; upgrade of its coffee shop to include a bakery and coffee corner; addition of a new restaurant; renovation of water and air-conditioning systems; and construction of a spa.

BOI said the project qualified for pioneer status considering that it would spend P1 million for each room—excluding the cost of land-exceeding the minimum required investment.

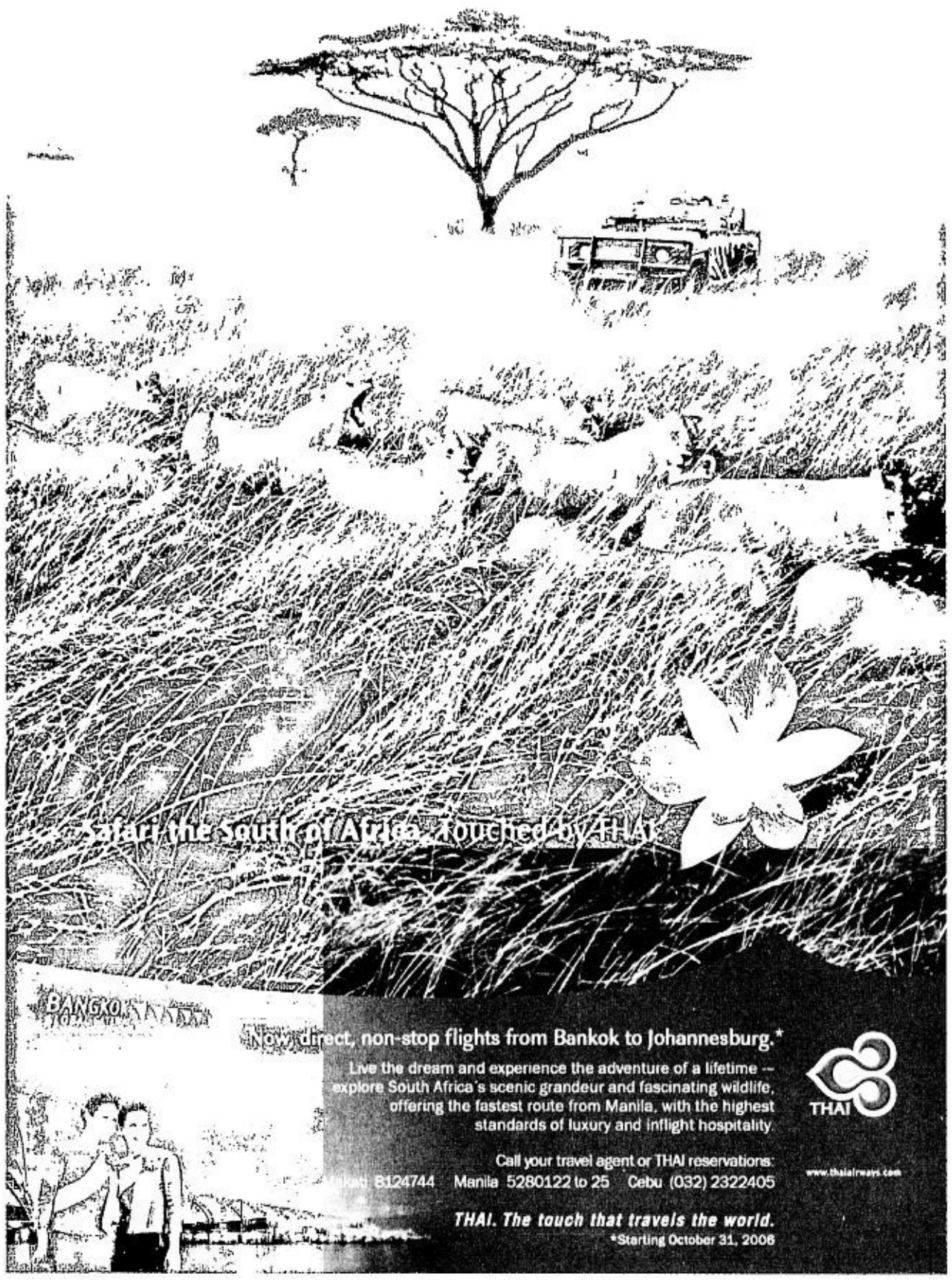
BOI noted that the Department of Tourism endorsed the proposed Dusit project for registration.

The other project is Mactan Shangri-la Hotel & Resort Inc.'s P335.6-million modernization program for 188 rooms in its facility in Lapulapu City, Cebu.

The all-British Virgin Island firm wants to upgrade the structures and amenities of the entire Ocean Wing guest rooms, including refurbishing of the rooms, ballroom, lobby and lounge, and restaurant.

BOI said the company's income tax rate exemption would be computed based on the ratio of the new investments and the total investments Mactan Shangri-La has brought into the country since it started business here in 1990.

Both projects are also entitled to duty-free importation of capital equipment, as well as other fiscal and non-fiscal incentives.



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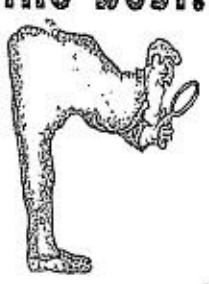

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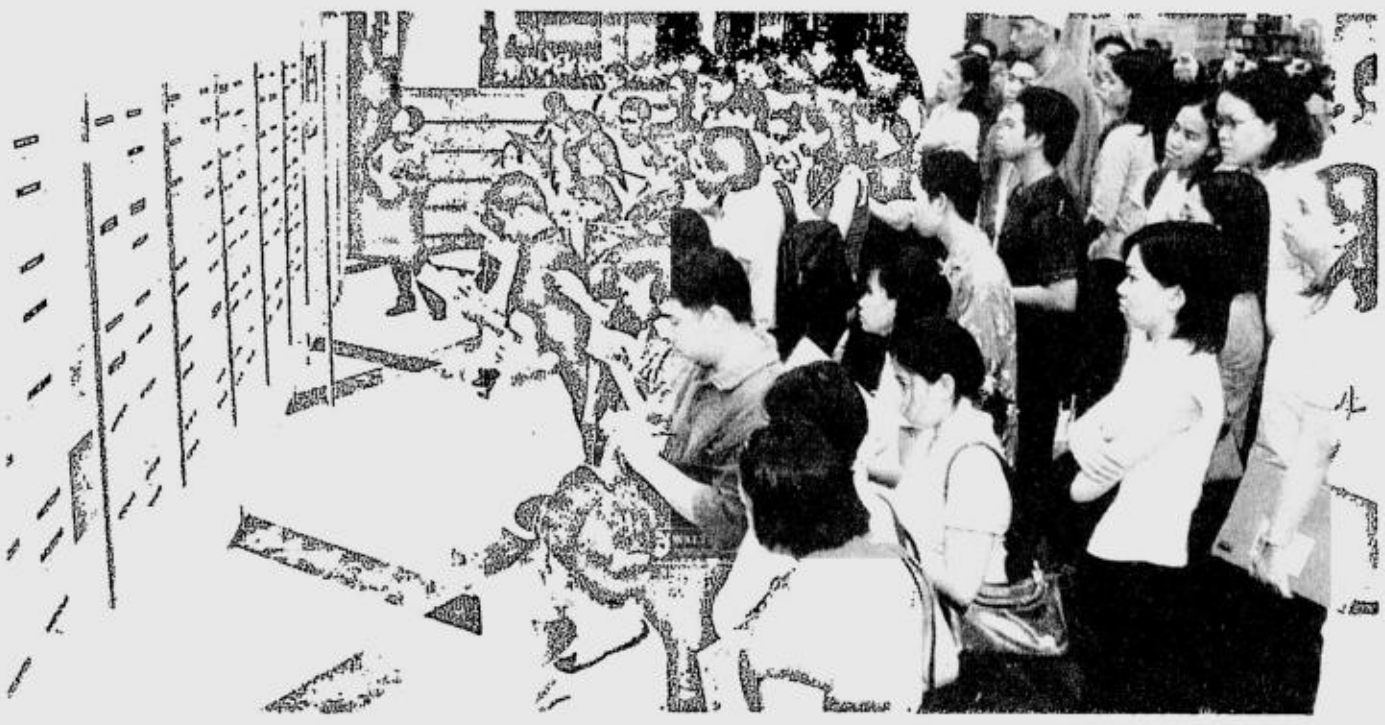
Underemployment: Worse than unemployment

7.8 million Filipinos have work that do not earn them sufficient pay

By Doris C. Dumlao



ERIC (NOT HIS REAL NAME), WHO finished a two-year basic computer technician course, hopes to land a full-time job to better support his wife and one-year-old son. Either that, or leave the country and join his father as a construction worker in Saudi Arabia.

But for now, the 24-year-old minimum wage-earner makes both ends meet by working as a contractual employee for a manning agency that fills the janitorial and other blue-collar manpower requirements of a major government financial institution.

He earns P325 a day (His employer can't afford yet the P25 daily increase in minimum wage recently approved by the Wage Board but has promised to give it retroactively)—barely enough to cover household expenses, including the P1,300 monthly housing rent in Cavite.

His wife augments the family budget by working as as food attendant, likewise as a contractual employee of another staffing agency, earning minimum wage.

"*Sinubukan ko po mag apply sa* Cavite Technopark (as a computer technician) *pero hindi na ako tinawagan* (I tried to apply for a job at the Cavite Technopark but they didn't call back anymore," Eric recalls.

Thus, he decided that making use of his training at STI College could wait. He has stayed at his current job for about a year now, notwithstanding the low pay, limited job security and limited prospects of skills enhancement and career mobility.

One of millions

Eric is among the millions of Filipinos who are underemployed, referring to a situation in which a worker is employed, but not in the desired capacity, whether in terms of compensation, hours, or level of skill and experience.

The Philippine labor force survey defines underemployment only in terms of desire for additional hours of work and estimates 7.8 million of Filipinos falling in this category as of July 2006.

Underemployment, which causes lower productivity and wages, is seen as a more serious problem in the Philippines than unemployment, based on a new local labor index that attempts to measure "decent work."

Among other labor challenges confronting the government are inequity in pay between agriculture and industry, as well as the reality that some workers still receive pay below the minimum basic pay, says Teresa Peralta, chief labor and employment officer at the labor standard statistics division of the Department of Labor and Employment, during a recent statistics forum hosted by the Asian Development Bank.

Peralta says there had been some progress in the country's goal to trim its "decent work" deficit, although a lot of hurdles remain.

The "decent work" concept evolved as a response to address the formidable social and labor challenges posed by globalization, introduced by the International Labor Organization in 1999. It is defined as "opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity."

In a paper delivered during the forum at ADB, Peralta says the Philippine Labor Index (PLI) in 2000 to 2004 ranged from 71 to 74 versus the ideal index of 100. The decent work deficit was estimated at 26 in 2004.

"In the opportunities for work dimension, concern is raised on the need to create more full time work as the proportions of part-time employment are still substantial and this bears on workers' productivity and their incomes," Peralta says.

Based on the National Statistics Office's latest labor force survey as of July 2006,

UNDEREMPLOYMENT/ B2-2

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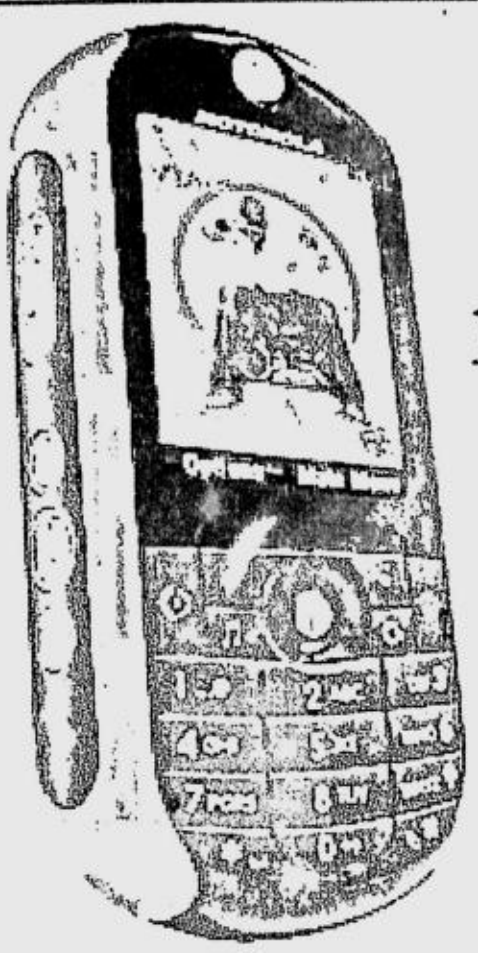


New phone offers seamless mobile music experience

Drag-and-drop feature for easy downloading

By Abigail L. Ho

MOTOROLA CAPITALIZED ON THE Filipinos' endless love affair with music when it launched the MotoROKR E2 handset, a function-packed mobile phone designed with the music enthusiasts in mind.

"With the MotoROKR, consumers can enjoy the freedom and convenience of carrying their favorite music with them all the time. Motorola is giving people a seamless mobile music experience with a portfolio of devices like the new MotoROKR leading the way," said Motorola Philippines marketing head Mari Litonjua.

He said the MotoROKR E2 made it easier for music lovers to transfer music from their PCs to their phones via a USB 2.0 cable.

All a user has to do is drag-and-drop digital music files from his PC-stored music collection to his handset. With the USB 2.0 cable, file transfers are completed in mere seconds.

Armed with an optional 2GB SD card, the device can store as many as 500 songs that can be enjoyed either with a standard wired earphone—the same one that can be used with an iPod or any other mobile music device—or with Bluetooth headsets.

It also allows simple music playback via dedicated music player buttons on the left side (play/pause, skip forward/backward, hold) and front of the handset.

Users can also listen to the radio as the MotoROKR E2 is equipped with a built-in FM radio functionality.

Litonjua said this mobile phone model targeted mostly the youth market, particularly young professionals who were mostly on the go all the time, with the handset's candy bar form factor, large color screen and overall music experience.

Motorola is the world's second biggest handset manufacturer, next to Finnish mobile device maker Nokia, according to research firm Strategy Analytics.

In the third quarter, Motorola's global handset shipment volume grew 39 percent, the second fastest growth rate among all vendors in the world.

Nokia partners with Oracle on mobile device access

RIDING THE ENTERPRISE MOBILITY wave, Nokia and Oracle have teamed up to provide users of the Nokia E61 and E62 mobile devices access to some critical business applications even while out of the office.

The recent announcement, made during the Oracle OpenWorld event in San Francisco, allowed Nokia E61 and E62 users to remotely access Oracle mobile enterprise applications including Oracle Mobile Field Service and Siebel Wireless.

Oracle Mobile Field Service enables mobile access to relevant work schedules and job information, allowing field service dispatchers and their service representatives to collaborate more closely as work requests are created, updated and subsequently completed, according to Oracle.

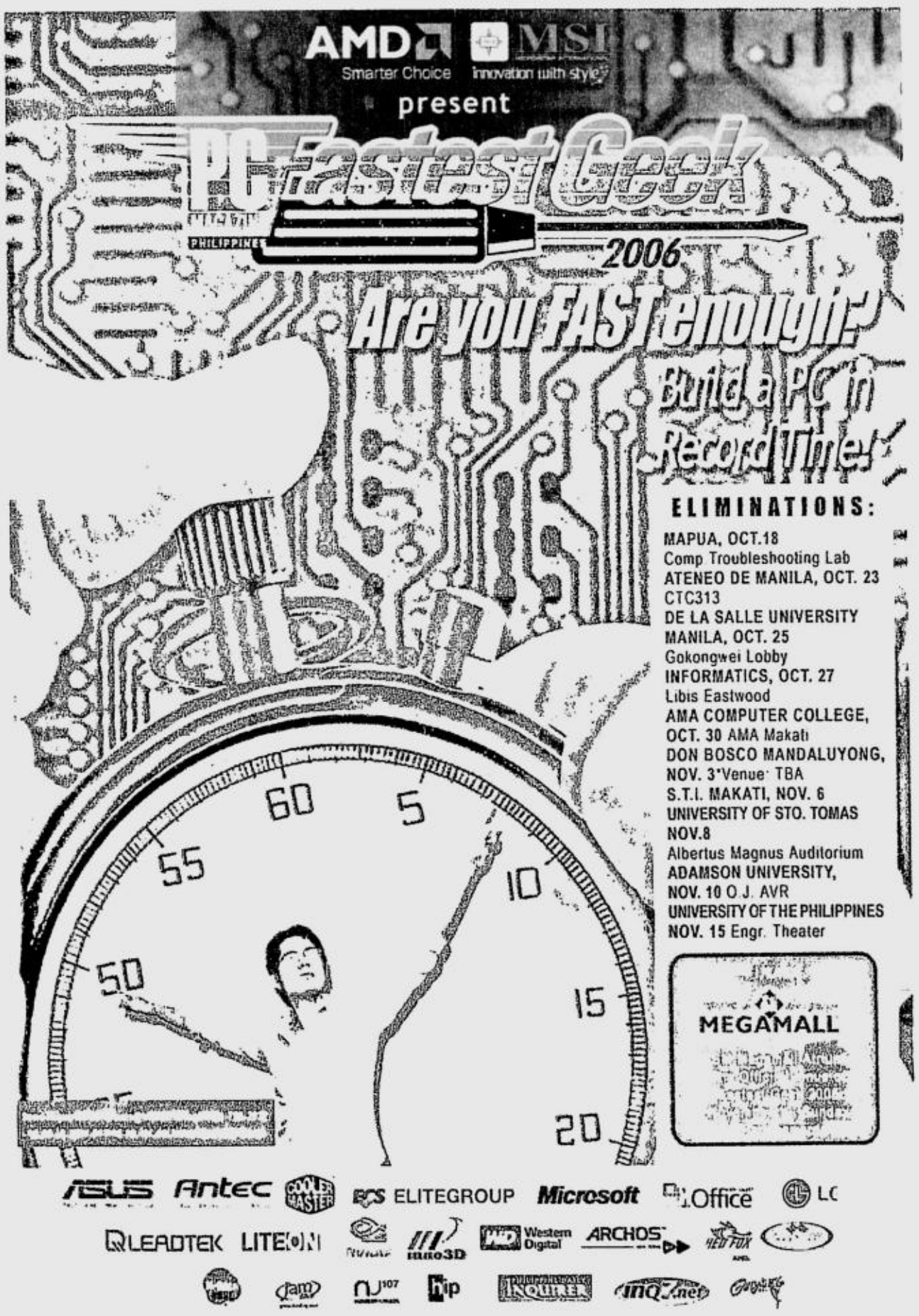
Anand Subbaraman, field service product strategy director at Oracle, said allowing remote access to such information would pave the way for more informed decisions, better customer service and higher worker productivity.

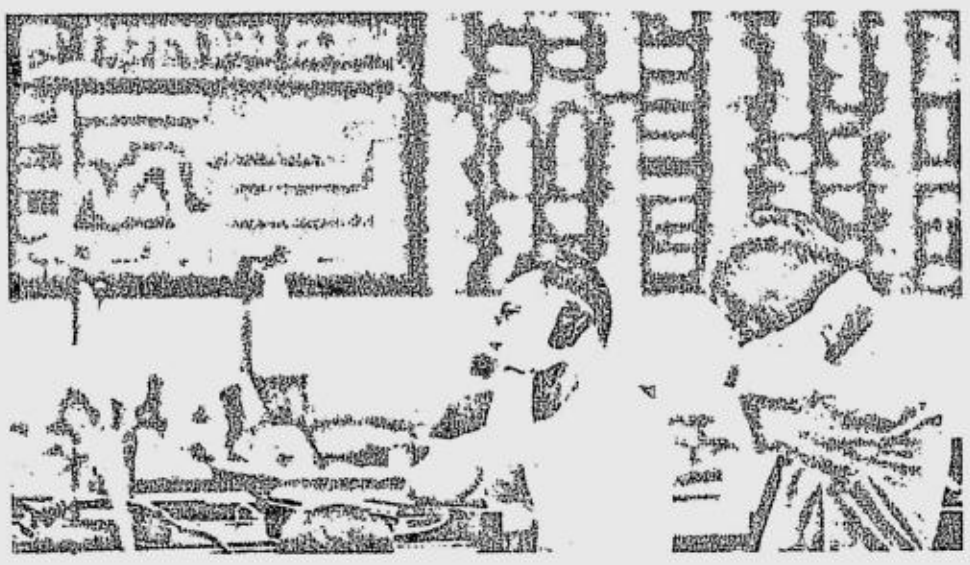
Oracle's Siebel Wireless applications, on the other hand, allows users to connect to the Internet to view, edit and create information in their companies' Siebel Enterprise database.

Oracle mobile product strategy senior director Guy Waterman said the Siebel Wireless applications would give enterprises a "competitive advantage" via mobile customer relationship management deployments.

"Nokia and Oracle are now able to deliver essential mobile solutions to professionals the ability to access real-time customer information. This is critical for executives, sales professionals, and field service personnel that spend a majority of their time away from their offices," said Chris Fletcher, director of alliances and solutions marketing at Nokia.

"The combination of access to critical Oracle applications, combined with the best-of-class enterprise voice capabilities provided by the Nokia E61 and Nokia E62, make for a compelling mobile enterprise solution," he added.





Trading stocks online starts to pick up pace

By Daxim L. Lucas

MORE FILIPINO INVESTORS WILL SOON find themselves buying and selling stocks over the Internet as they grow in sophistication and savvy.

That is what First Metro Securities chairman Roberto Sanchito T. Dispo is counting on after his company launched its online stockbrokerage facility in Makati City last week.

"This is the emerging trend in the market," said the investment banker, who also heads the stockbrokerage unit of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. "More and more investors are becoming sophisticated."

Through the system, Internet-savvy retail investors—who are also experienced stock market investors—can avail themselves of timely market information and execute transactions on a real-time basis, Dispo said.

First Metro Securities is the fifth online broker to offer its services to the public, after BPI Securities Corp., CitisecOnline, AB Capital and Investments Corp. and 2TradeAsia.com.

With only about 50,000 active investors at any one time, however, the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) may be too small to accommodate the growing ranks of online brokers.

This is especially true since the bulk of existing stock market investors remain wary about executing trades online, and many refuse to let go of old habits like speaking to stockbrokers and executing trades over the phone.

Open-minded investors

The answer, therefore, may lie not in attracting more of the existing investors into the online stockbrokering fold, but in widening the investor base to include more people who are open to the idea of trading online.

"What we really want to do is expand the market, instead of just capturing a greater slice of the pie," CitisecOnline president Dino Bate said.

If he has his way, online brokers should see more retail investors trading through their computers rather than high net worth investors.

"We want more people to participate in the market," he added. "This is where growth will come from."

In particular, CitisecOnline is targeting investors below 45 years of age, many of whom are still flexible enough to learn the new mindset needed for online trading.

"Investors above 45 years of age are those who are normally technophobes," Bate said.

Age aside, the CitisecOnline chief noted that online stockbrokers are aimed mainly at retail investors rather than large fund managers who often require more focused attention from their brokers.

"Online systems are for people who can do it themselves, as opposed to some high net worth individuals who need full-service brokerage," he said.

Full-service brokerage covers access to top-notch research material, broker advice, and what Bate calls "hand-holding"—close professional interaction between the investor and the stockbroker.

PSE backing

Investors who can only for execution of their trades do not need to pay the higher commissions associated with full-service brokers and can very well explore the "do-it-yourself" route.

Meanwhile, PSE—with its large roster of change-averse member-brokers—is looking at online trading as a means of securing its future with the ranks of its more affluent peers around the region.

According to PSE president Francis Lim, he is counting on online brokers to help expand the exchange's retail investor base to include the younger and more affluent generation like call center workers and overseas Filipino workers who have cash to spare.

"The PSE fully supports online trading as it is a powerful tool to help develop the retail market," he said. "The experience of the more progressive bourses in the region attests to this fact."

"I strongly encourage our local brokers to invest in this technology as a means to developing their business," Lim added, explaining that online trading could very well be the savior some volume-starved brokers are looking for.

It is clear, however, that online stock brokerage services will not grow exponentially overnight as the country continues to struggle with roadblocks that hinder the development of the capital markets.

For one, Bate believes that local investors, for the most part, continue to lack the required sophistication.

"This is because there is no formal education about the stock market here," he said. "It's only now that we're trying to correct this."

At the same time, many prospective investors are still worried about the safety of their transactions, especially with concerns that their electronic accounts could get tampered with by hackers.

"It would also help if Internet penetration would increase," he said, referring to the relatively low Internet penetration rate in the country. "But these issues are gradually being solved."

Lure of big profit

Nonetheless, online brokers like Dispo are encouraged by the recent performance of the stock market, hoping that more people will be attracted to online trading to take advantage of potential returns.

"When we launched this project last year, the PSE Index was only at 1,500," he said. "Look where it is now."

Despite the promise of greater returns on investment, it remains to be seen if the local market is ready to join the ranks of the United States, Japan and Korea where online trading has taken hold.

Brokers like Dispo and Bate are crossing their fingers.

Investing in creative industries

From page B2-4

consumers have, oftentimes, absolutely no idea of what new things they would like to buy. They only know about the old things. Market studies often fail because of this.

Innovative companies know this phenomenon to be true. So they focus on product creations using people and processes that seem to "get" what the market wants more often than others do because of some insightful or intuitive "revelation."

Design changes

So who are in the creative industries?

The most obvious are the ones producing films, shows, books, animated cartoons, art objects and the like and the ones inventing new products and technological innovations.

However, there are a lot of industries that are dependent on changes in design and style like clothes, houses, furniture and furnishings. They thrive on creativity.

Less obvious are the ones who change production and accounting systems, figure a way to make people more productive and discover ways and means to make life a little bit easier to live and enjoy.

Creativity can be as simple as the invention of Matsushita—the two electric sockets instead of one—which started his electrical appliance empire. Or it can be as complex as sending men to Mars.

The Philippines must carve its own niche in the global market. If all we want to do is mass produce electronic devices, send nurses abroad and run slapstick TV shows, then we are doomed.

Countries like Korea, Singapore and Japan invest heavily in the creative industries as their wellspring of global competitiveness.

We have to find our own way and just do it. And it is not just the government I am referring to. Private industries, taipans and even the lowliest of entrepreneurs should begin thinking creativity and innovation.

They should trumpet value creation and go for changing business paradigms. The world does not reward the also-run. But they pay a premium for the uniquely captivating.

Underemployment . . .

From page B2-2

the Philippines' underemployment rate is about 23.5 percent of the labor force versus the unemployment rate of only 8 percent.

The dimension on opportunities for work looks at whether persons who need work are able to find work that covers all forms of economic activity including self-employment, unpaid family work and wage employment in both formal and informal sectors.

"As in any macro-indicator, the PLI and its dimension indices are signals for policy makers and program planners on areas needing attention," Peralta says, noting however that the index was not yet used as an official government indicator.

Its five other dimensions are:

- Freedom of choice of employment—work should be freely chosen and not forced on individuals; bonded and slave labor as well as child labor are unacceptable and should be eliminated;
- Productive work—workers should have acceptable livelihoods that deliver fair incomes for themselves and their families while ensuring sustainable development and competitiveness of enterprises and countries;
- Equity in work—women and men need to have equality of opportunity and treatment in work; encompasses absence of discrimination at work and in access to work and ability to balance work with family life;
- Security at work—safe work places should be ensured and workers health, livelihoods and pensions should be safeguarded; and,
- Representation at work—workers should be treated with respect at work, they should be able to join organizations to represent their interests collectively, free to voice their concerns and participate in decision making about their terms and conditions of work.

"In the security of work dimension, attention should be focused on the expansion of social security membership as the coverage rates are still relatively low relative to what is contemplated under existing laws," Peralta says.

In the representation at work dimension, concern is raised on the low proportions of worker participation in non-establishment based associations, Peralta says.

The dimension freedom of choice of employment had the lowest shortfalls, Peralta says, but the efforts to eliminate child labor and other forms of commercial exploitation should be sustained.

The PLI is seen as a complementary tool when related with other development indicators, such as growth in gross domestic product and human development index in monitoring the social and economic progress of the country particularly of its working population.

Overemployment

In a separate paper presented during the same forum of the Philippine Statistical Association, ILO manager for statistical development and analysis group Pete Peek says it may also be worthy to look at issues relating to overemployment.

He noted that in many developing countries, many people belonging to the higher income brackets fall into the underemployed category because they can afford not to have full-time jobs. On the other hand, he says poor people tend to be overemployed or forced to work for more hours than desired because they need to earn more.

In his paper measuring trends on decent work deficits across the globe, the Geneva-based Peek says the shortfall had decreased in recent years.

"But this reduction was not uniform across countries. Whereas high-income countries saw a significant improvement, the situation deteriorated in low-income countries. Instead of witnessing a convergence, we are seeing a widening decent work gap between the rich and poor countries," he says.

The decent work deficit had decreased in East Asia more than in any other region, although the shortfall widened in South Asia which includes India.

Advocating the use of an index that seeks to measure decent work, ILO believes the conventional method of monitoring progress using simply the unemployment and employment rates is both inaccurate and inadequate.

"It is inaccurate, as a measure of job opportunities, because in countries plagued by high poverty and a lack of social safety nets the poor simply cannot afford to be unemployed and have no choice but to work," Peek says.

"Secondly, the unemployment rate is inadequate, because it ignores the qualitative dimensions of work. The official ILO definition of employment is a very broad one. It may include someone with a menial job with low a wage who has worked for only one hour during the reference period, and also someone with a well-paid, full-time job," he says.

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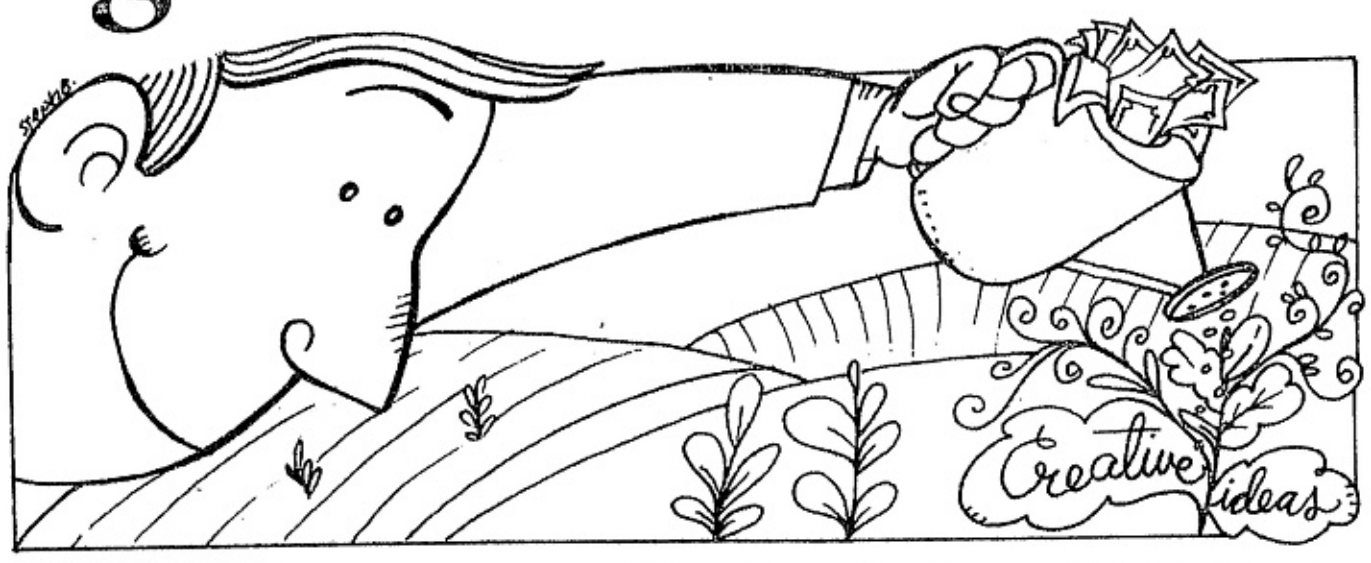
Investing in creative industries

By Eduardo A. Morató, Jr.
Professor, Asian Institute of Management



THERE IS TOO MUCH FOCUS ON PLAIN job creation in the Philippines. The government talks about 10 million jobs and the message is "any job will do." This type of thinking is what keeps this country poor.

There are no milestone advances in sending millions of Filipinos abroad, just a lot of labor dollars. The secret in any great society is its ability to create and innovate. And the secret weapon is the artist who crafts new art and the scientist who invents technologically superior products.

At the very core of this secret is state-of-the-art education and industries that will convert people's talents into paradigm-shifting creations.

We, as a nation, must begin to think bigger than we are. Doing more of the same will just leave us further behind. We must wonder at how Italy remains on top of the design world in shoes, bags, furniture, garments, tiles and other such works of commercial art.

We must drool at the technological innovations of Silicon Valley or the ever-fascinating electronic gadgets of Japan. More shamefully, we must stop and pause to think "how on earth did Korea suddenly become the telenovela darling of Asia. Aren't Filipinos supposed to be the entertainers of Asia?"

Creative milieu

The answer lies in advancing the creative industries. It is not any particular industry that can be neatly classified by the government.

It has to do more with how society brings together extremely creative people, who undergo a highly stimulating creative process, which produces astonishingly creative products, that have a very powerful impact on the creative milieu chosen.

Allow me to discuss these four elements one by one.

In any society, there is the average person. They are the ordinary workers, professionals and managers. They keep the economy humming but they don't produce the exciting breakthroughs.

Then there are the gifted ones. Nerdy, eccentric, emotional, strange even, they are the hope of a wannabe great society.

If you drag them through the usual educational grind, they will die. Such geniuses may even fail the system, like Einstein who had trouble passing his arithmetic classes and Bill Gates who dropped out of school.

For many children, their creativity quotient drops after the age of five. This is according to psychologists. The highly regimented, rational and structured learning systems that drill the students in left brain "reading, writing and arithmetic" stifle the creative mind.

For the Philippines to advance as a nation, it must invest in giftedness, in the few that will make the big difference. But it is not just at the elementary to college levels that I am talking about.

It goes all the way to doctoral programs, specialized schools for artists and performers, industry R&D laboratories, technology incubators, and think tanks who do nothing but think and create.

Next is the creative process that must be embraced by the nurturers of creative people. Schools and industries are often afraid to "let a thousand flowers bloom."

They are more concerned about setting standards that make everybody the same. They have a fetish for installing systems and procedures that regulate the behavior of their students and employees.

Experimentation

The two hallmarks of the creative process are creating many ideas and creating different ideas.

The former has to do with lots and lots of experimentation and a preferential bias for the heuristic or trial-and-error process.

This is in contrast to the usual algorithmic one-problem, one-solution approach to learning in many schools and corporations.

The latter has to do with finding the unique but revolutionary idea that changes the way things are done. This means being extremely tolerant of mavericks and paradigm shifters. Rather than giving students a standard textbook, they should be encouraged to write their own original thoughts.

Rather than asking employees to "stick to the knitting," they should be allowed enough "tinkering, noodling and musing" time to pursue projects that might not result in anything, but then again, they might change the world.

The creative process thrives in a highly entrepreneurial environment where fairly autonomous teams work under tolerant mentors rather than bossy bosses.

Creative people plus creative processes should produce creative products and services time and time again. A company like 3M, for example, mandates that 30 percent of its sales for the next five years should be composed of entirely new products.

Nine out of 10 inventions and innovations might not make it but the 10th invention should more than make up for everything. The same thinking goes for venture capital corporations.

New products

In the world of Hollywood, movie producers are able to choose from 300 scripts to get "the winning one." Another US company, Ideo, specializes in designing new products for businesses.

Their approach is to produce crude product prototypes and improve dramatically upon them. For example, their original inspiration for the computer mouse was a butter dish.

Finally, the true test of creativity is the impact it manifests in the marketplace. Many new creations are introduced to consumers without any market study.

But that is understandable because

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What's your country's gross national happiness

Happiest people on earth pay RP a visit

BHUTANESE delegation to Bilar, Bohol in their traditional attire.

By Teodoro B. Baguilat Jr.
Contributor

SELDOM DOES ONE FIND rich agricultural lands in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan. But even more rarely does one meet a grumpy or miserable Bhutanese.

How could you when the greatest aspiration of Bhutan's revered King is the pursuit of happiness for his people.

"We seek, explicitly, one outcome in our public policy: The happiness of our citizens," says Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup, the genial Minister of Agriculture of Bhutan who was the guest of honor during the International Rice Festival organized by the South East Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE) last Oct. 27 to 29 in Bohol.

The Minister says this way of thinking was conceptualized three decades ago by their King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck when he was only 17.

After visiting the remote villages and listening to the counsel of the elders, the King realized that progress of a country is not measured by its material wealth. Instead, he developed a new philosophy called "Gross National Happiness."

Witty pun

Ngedup calls the GNH a "witty pun" to the Gross National Product. He defines GNH as a development strategy "wherein social, cultural, spiritual and other nonmaterialistic values are inseparable from the materialistic values."

Guided by this policy, Ngedup says the government provides free education and health services to all Bhutanese because wisdom and health make a person happy.

To protect its forests, the King decreed that the country's forest cover should never go below 60 percent. Presently, the cover stands at 72 percent.

In agriculture, Minister Ngedup says Bhutan was starting to propagate organically-grown products to make their citizens healthier and to sell the surplus overseas.

He says globalization has persuaded countries to overemphasize their need to increase material production and developing products at the same neglecting family values and cultural heritage.

"We're producing too much junk. But will junk make us happy? Is money the only thing that makes people happy?" Ngedup says.

Nestled between India and China, with a population of 600,000 spread over a mountainous, icy region of 337,000 square kilometers, Bhutan is one of the smallest countries in the world.

With only 8 percent of the land area declared as arable, half of which is planted with rice, Bhutan imports half of its rice requirements.

No complaints

Despite the harsh environment and the lack of arable lands, the Bhutanese, who are 99 percent Buddhist, have no complaints.

In a survey conducted by the government last year, 97 percent of the population considered themselves, "generally happy."

Most people might not fully grasp what the national happiness is all about.

Shingay Dorji, the equally cheerful aide of Minister Ngedup explains that happiness is having inner peace and being content with what you have.

"In Bhutan, we do not look at the stars. Instead, we look at the ground. When we aspire too much and do not reach the stars, we end up disappointed," he says.

This is not to say that Bhutanese prefer to be poor, Shingay stresses.

The Royal Government promotes development through the four pillars of the Gross National Happiness, namely, conservation of the environment, conservation of heritage and culture, good governance and equitable economic wealth.

Shingay explains that conservation of the environment means fresh air while having good governance means fair justice and equal rights to everyone.

He also says preserving the traditional rice varieties is one of the "happiness-directed" goals of the Royal Government.

"Whenever we start a project, we only consider one goal—will this bring happiness to the people?" he adds.

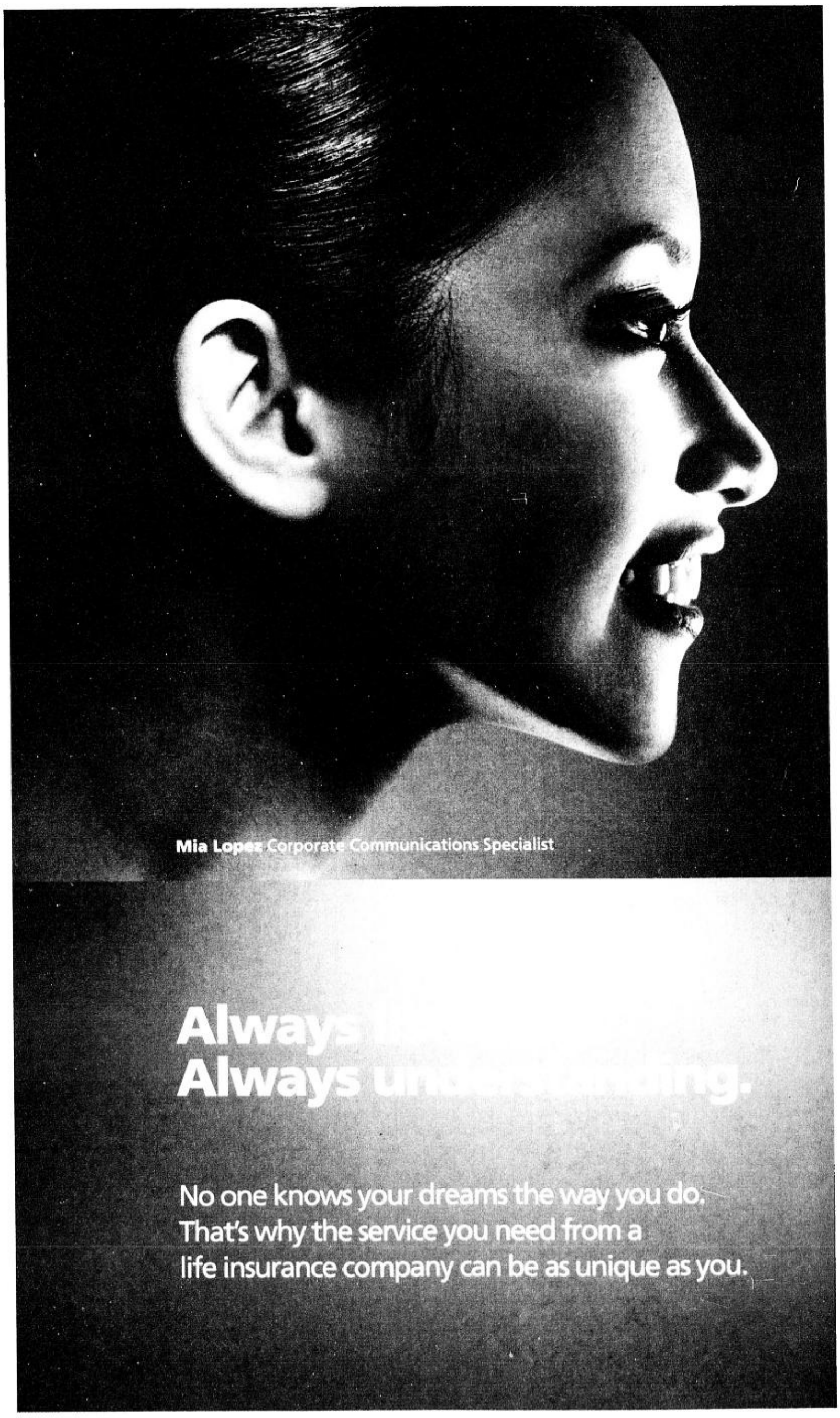
Enjoying Bohol

This mindset was visibly painted on the ever-smiling faces of the Bhutanese delegation. During the three-day festival that farmers from Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and the Philippines, the Bhutanese animatedly mingled and socialized in their traditional costumes.

One farmer from Bohol, says that the Bhutanese were the only ones talking to them even if the only Visayan phrase they knew was "Maayong Buntag" (Good day).

"Friends, family, health and tradition are things that make us truly happy," Minister Ngedup says.

Without a coastal area in his land-locked country, Ngedup, who spent an entire afternoon in the beaches of Panglao, says he found all of these and even more in Bohol.



PRU LIFE UK 10th anniversary A decade devoted to listening

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Medical tourism: Potential for the Philippines

By Hazel Sarah D. Federico
Contributor

MERCEDITA RESKE, A CANADIAN, visited the Philippines to get a second opinion from St. Luke's Medical Center. A doctor in Canada had advised her that due to her periodic bleeding, her uterus had to be removed.

Doubtful of her doctor's diagnosis, she decided to consult Filipino physicians. After taking medication for a few weeks, she went home with her uterus intact and the bleeding healed.

This is what we call medical tourism—the act of traveling to another country to obtain low-cost, world-class medical treatment. Medical tourists usually enjoy the attractions and the beauty of the country while undergoing medical treatment.

People from developing countries used to travel to the United States or other developed nations to obtain medical care, which is usually not available in their own countries.

Now, it's the reverse.

Healthcare costs in wealthy nations have risen, driving their citizens to search for affordable yet good healthcare elsewhere. Time magazine's July issue reported that elective operations or surgeries in India, Thailand, Singapore, normally cost only a quarter up to as low as a tenth of those in the US or Britain. These packages often include hotel accommodation, car transfers, and post-operative vacations.

Réske chose to get medical treatment in the Philippines because in Canada thousands are on the waiting lists for much-needed treatment or surgery. They often have to wait for months, even years. In the United Kingdom, patients have to wait for 6 to 8 months for surgical procedures.

The uninsured in the US face financial issues—for heart bypass surgery, an insured patient needs $122,000 to $175,000 while he can get the same surgery in Thailand for only $12,000 including airfare, hotel accommodation and vacation packages.

Empowering consumers

The Philippines, has RxPinoy, the first and only website that promotes medical tourism. RxPinoy started as an online community of doctors and dentists with the aim of "empowering the consumer."

One can register in the website and select medical packages bundled with hotel accommodation, car transfer service, a tour guide and a caregiver. If the wife of the patient likes shopping, then she can visit local malls. If he brings his child, a caregiver can help care for him.

Users can see the procedures and treatments available, what hospitals or institutions offer them, and how much they would cost. RxPinoy has syndicated some of the country's most respected hospitals offering medical tourism in the Philippines: St. Luke's Medical Center, Makati Medical Center, Metropolitan Medical Center and Asian Hospital Medical Center.

RxPinoy gives a lot of options to medical tourists who can compare the prices and services of several hospitals.

Aside from RxPinoy, renowned cosmetic surgeons like Vicki Belo, Manny and Pie Calayan, and beauty consultant Ricky Reyes among others, promote their services internationally through their celebrity models. They usually tie up with a certain resort or hotel for the medical tourists to stay in.

"When a store opens for business, it should be well advertised," says Edy B. Uy, president and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of RxPinoy. Uy believes that medical tourism needs endorsement.

Edy Uy says while the Department of Health launched medical tourism in the country last January, the international press didn't pick up the story.

He has been attending medical meetings and seminars conducted by the Department of Health (DOH) for a year now but when medical tourism is brought up, the DOH would say "we are not ready yet."

To this, Uy replies, "we have to start with what we have."

"The reason we enter medical tourism is that we lack money and that there are many tourists who can pay for our competitive service," he adds.

RxPinoy, with Beautiphil Health Holidays Corp., and Honors Inc. are organizing a Philippine Medical Tourism Congress, Expo on Nov. 20 to 21.

Uy says the country needs this exposure.

"Filipino doctors and nurses are world-class. In the US, half of the doctors are Filipinos or are from Filipino descent. If our own president consults these doctors, will they not be good enough for ordinary people abroad," Uy asks.

Time magazine also reported that about 25 percent of physicians in the United States got their MDs abroad.

RP's advantages

University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) economist Maria Cherry Lyn S. Rodolfo agrees that "our main advantage lies in our human resources. Another advantage is our English and communication skills. Just as business process outsourcing companies like Teletech, IBM, Dell, Convergys have flocked to our shores, medical tourists can easily communicate with their caregivers."

Thailand has been promoting medical tourism for years now along with India, Singapore and Malaysia. Rodolfo and Winston B. Padojinog say the Philippines is missing out on potential revenues enjoyed by Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and India.

Healthcare expenditure worldwide amounts to $3 trillion annually. Asia spent $390 billion in healthcare services in 1999. By 2010, it could reach $600 billion, with Japan alone spending $422 billion. India, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia have cornered 77 percent of the global expenditure.

In India, merging medical expertise and tourism became government policy when finance minister Jaswant Singh, called for India to become a "global health destination" this year. It is securing deals with American insurers like Blue Cross and Blue Shield who bring their patients to India (medical outsourcing) for medical treatment. As an incentive, some US companies like IndUShealth share with these employees up 25 percent of savings from the outsourcing.

When Edy Uy created the RxPinoy website under INFOMED last May 1999, medical tourism was almost unheard of. He first envisioned a website that would make it easy for patients to consult or look for doctors and ask questions for free.

"Filipinos wait for their sicknesses to worsen before consulting a physician," Uy said.

Uy added a feature in his website (Ask a Doc) wherein they could ask questions about health without any obligations, giving them better understanding of what kind of health professional to consult for their specific needs.

They noticed that online visitors were mostly OFWs asking questions online. Uy and his employees thought these OFWs might visit the doctors when they go back to the Philippines, so they started offering medical packages online, both for Filipinos and foreigners.

Uy says the country could do what India did last year when they had a diaspora of expatriate Indians. There are some eight million Filipinos abroad and these could translate to huge revenues if the country caters to their health needs and that of their families.

Retirement law

The government is pushing for a Philippine Retirement Law, where OFWs and foreigners can invest in the medical tourism industry. With the investment, Uy suggests they be given a visa to stay for a certain period of time. The 2005 Investments Priorities Plan, Medium Term Philippine Development Plan and the Public-Private Partnership) will facilitate the investment and release of capital from investors, especially.

Rodolfo suggests steps to push for health tourism:

Upgrading of accreditation standards to include not only the facilities or location but the equipment and the personnel involved in taking care of the patients. The country can first encourage Filipino expatriates to go to the Philippines for medical treatment and a vacation. This would also open up new opportunities as international insurance companies will start eyeing the Philippines creating a bigger market.

This will abate the massive deployment of nurses, doctors and caregivers as there will be enough revenues to pay for higher salaries.

The Philippines should also determine what its niche should be. Thailand first made cosmetic surgery including sex transplant famous.

The country should also intensify the promotion of our cosmetic and plastic surgery that are becoming popular with the endorsements of celebrities. Spas and massage treatments could also be added.

Government needs a framework for medical tourism. No investment plans and regulations are geared specifically for medical tourism. Specific laws concerning the control of medical malpractice among medical tourists and the degree of responsibility or liability, just in case something happens to the patient, should be outlined.

Rural Banks Expand Mobile Phone Banking Services with GCash

It was a monthly errand that Evelyn did not mind making. She walked a few blocks from her employer's Makati condominium to the mall and made her way to the familiar Globe Hub outlet at the Power Plant Mall. Evelyn handed over a thousand pesos to the smiling salesclerk, filled out a form, showed her ID card, and paid the 10-peso cash-in processing fee. A few minutes later, Evelyn's phone beeped with the familiar message "*You have received 1,000 of GCash from BC-Rockwell Hub on 9/15/06 at 12:40 PM.*"

It only took Evelyn another five minutes to key in instructions to transfer her GCash balance directly to her brother's savings account with the New Rural Bank of Victorias (Bank Victorias) in Bacolod City. Edwin, Evelyn's brother, does not own a mobile phone but through the new service, *Text-A-Deposit*, Evelyn can send GCash directly to his Bank Victorias deposit account.

Evelyn returned to work, happy at the thought that later, during her brother's afternoon break, he would go to Bank Victorias' Bacolod City branch, present his ID, and claim the cash. She was sure that upon arriving home tonight, he will be able to give the money to their mother. The amount was Evelyn's monthly "allowance" to her mother, who saved a fraction of the sum and used the rest for food.

Evelyn used to send money via branch-to-branch deposit to her mother's deposit account with a large commercial bank. She had to pay a hundred pesos for every transaction, and her mother had to wait for a day and travel for two hours to and from their house to Bacolod City to claim the cash.

"I also tried the remittance services of courier companies; they were charging a processing fee of 130 pesos which was 13% of the amount I was sending. Now, I only have to shell out 10 pesos! Imagine how much I get to save using Text-A-Deposit!" Evelyn relates.

The introduction of GCash, Globe Telecom's electronic money service and subsequently, person-to-person or phone-to-phone (P2P) money transfer, greatly benefits Evelyn and other subscribers who regularly send and transfer funds to suppliers, shops, and even regular "allowances" to loved ones and family members in the province.

The widespread use of short messaging services (SMS), in addition to the introduction of GCash, has facilitated domestic and international transfer of money. Like Evelyn, many other Filipinos working away from their places of origin (within and outside the Philippines) have started using SMS-based services to transfer money – in Evelyn's case, from the Power Plant in Makati to the rural town in Negros Oriental where she lived before moving to Manila to work as a *yaya*. Globe introduced GCash in late 2004 as a service that "turns mobile phones into virtual electronic wallets". Subscribers can load electronic money (cash-in), store the "money" in their "wallets", and use it to pay bills, make purchases, or transfer money that relatives and friends can convert to cash (cash-out). All transactions registration, authentication, authorization, and confirmation are conducted through SMS.

When GCash was launched in 2004, program managers of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supported Microenterprise Access to Banking Services (MABS) Program quickly recognized its potential as a platform for microfinance banking applications. The MABS Program aims to substantially increase the level of banking services being provided to the microenterprise sector by assisting rural banks to develop the capability to profitably provide loan and deposit services to the sector. Although the Program's core activity is delivering training and technical assistance, it also introduces and develops new and low-cost banking technologies to further improve its participating banks' efficiency, productivity, and outreach.

The mobile phone is the widely used communications tool in the Philippines. The ubiquitous device is the one thing most Filipinos can't leave home without from blue-collared workers like jeepney drivers to moneyed housewives and their *kumares*. As of end-2005, 41 million Filipinos, almost half of the population, were mobile phone subscribers; almost 1 billion SMS are sent daily. The pre-paid platform and the availability of smaller-denomination airtime credits further gave members of the lower economic segments access to mobile services - it is estimated that more than 80% of mobile users are pre-paid accounts. These mobile phone users are the same small businessmen who regularly transact with rural banks and other microfinance institutions, making small payments and depositing small amounts regularly.

Seeing this and with the support of MABS, the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) and Globe Telecom entered into an agreement in November 2004 to develop and launch mobile phone banking applications for clients of rural banks. The first service was the Text-A-Payment, that allows micro loan borrowers of accredited rural banks who are Globe or Touch Mobile subscribers to repay their microloan amortizations through SMS via GCash. This service reduces the clients' transaction costs since they no longer need to make the trip to the bank to make a payment. On the other hand, it also reduces the banks' collection and transaction costs, since it eliminates field collection. Banks are able to pass on these savings to their clients through reduced interest rates and service charges. Text-A-Payment also greatly reduces fraud and theft since the transactions are fast and secure.

In 2006, MABS developed and introduced Text-A-Deposit; the service is now being offered by a number of rural banks. Bank Victorias is offering Text-A-Payment, GCash cash-in and cash-out services and Text-A-Deposit in all its five branches -- Bacolod City, Victorias, San Carlos, Kabangkalan and Iloilo City. These new services allow clients to pay their loans, send and receive money, and to make deposits to or receive remittances through their bank account via SMS for fees as low as 1%. In particular, the Text-A-Deposit service greatly reduces the costs of remittances and bank transfers, since fund transfers are made directly to their rural bank deposit accounts. Like Evelyn's brother, depositors who do not have mobile phones can still receive remittances, as long as they have an account with a GCash accredited rural bank.

The widespread use of GCash and the banking applications it supports largely lies in the ability to encash the stored value or pay for goods and services at a significant number of merchants. Globe, RBAP, and MABS are working to help to expand the ecosystem of merchants, especially microenterprises, who can now more easily utilize GCash to sell goods and services and then settle their GCash sales directly to their deposit accounts via Text-A-Deposit services with an accredited rural bank. There are now more than 200 GCash accredited rural bank branches approved to offer GCash services. Clients can now exchange (cash-in) or claim (cash-out) GCash, Globe's electronic money facility, at any accredited rural bank.

In addition to regular cash-in and cash-out services some banks are now facilitating payroll services using GCash. Philippine Rural Banking Corporation (PR Bank), a rural bank with a network of 27 branches extending from Tuguegarao to Pasig City, is offering Text-A-Sweldo (Text-A-Salary) for their employees and for other interested companies in their area. They now disburse employees' salaries using GCash; this drives the use of GCash and is helping to expand the ecosystem of GCash in their community even further since more people are directly seeing the benefits of using GCash. Other banks that have begun to offer Text-a-Sweldo include Agri-business Bank in Nueva Vizacaya, First Valley Bank in Lanao del Norte and GM Bank in Nueva Ecija.

Merchants and business owners in the community are also seeing the benefits of mobile phone banking. Ronald, a Globe Auto-load sub-dealer who owns three stores all located in the Cauayan City center, has been a depositor of PR Bank for two years now and recently started using GCash services when the bank started offering cash-in/cash-out services. Ronald now uses GCash to pay his distributor and sends GCash to his retailers. "Looking after the operations of three stores takes up much of my time. Using GCash has been a time-saver! I can complete transactions even while on the go. I also like the fact that I no longer need to carry cash around."

Alain, a client of Bank Victorias for eight years now, is also a recent mobile phone banking convert. Alain is also a Globe electronic load sub-distributor. He also uses GCash to pay his distributor. "GCash has made making transactions more convenient. I also welcome the increase in wallet limit from PhP10,000 to PhP40,000 I can cash-in more GCash value and complete more transactions."

In the coming months, rural banks will be launching other initiatives to further promote the use of mobile phone banking applications and expand the ecosystem of merchants, especially microentrepreneurs like tricycle drivers, sari sari store owners, and carendarias who can now all accept electronic payments using GCash to earn more money.

Electronic and mobile banking are fast proving to be the technological solution to providing less costly, easy-to-access, and fast and efficient banking services to previously unbanked clients. During his keynote speech at the 53rd Annual Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines National Convention, Philippine Vice-President Noli de Castro lauded the innovations of the rural banks and their use of Globe's GCash as having the potential to expand financial services in the countryside.

Ultimately, the widespread use and acceptance of mobile transactions will benefit the lower-income segments-those previously unbanked and those who transact in amounts outside of the minimum transactions covered by credit and debit cards. People like Evelyn, Ronald, and Alain who will greatly benefit from a few hundred pesos of savings per money transaction.

Evelyn ended the day very happy with the thought that her mother would have a nice dinner that evening. She had called her neighbor and confirmed that her mother had received her "allowance."

ADVT

The new frontier: Tax Risk Management

MAPping the Future

Tammy H. Lipana

THE OCCURRENCE OF NUMEROus corporate scandals in the United States in 2001 triggered the enactment of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and similar legislations in other countries. As a consequence, there has been an increasing awareness in business organizations of the importance of risk management and good corporate governance.

Tax, as one of the key costs in business, needs to be properly managed along with the others. Thus, tax risk management is now becoming a focus of attention in both commercial organizations and even revenue authorities in developed countries. It is for this reason that PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) developed a guide on Tax Risk Management last year, on which this article is based.

What is tax risk? Tax risk means different things to different people. This is not surprising as people have different aptitudes for risk, depending on their personality or their responsibilities within an organization. Fundamentally, tax risk is the possibility of loss or hazard deriving from tax exposures. Before organizations can assess the type of tax risk they are prepared to assume, they need to understand what the risks are. Tax risks may be classified into seven broad categories:

Transactional risk relates to the risks and exposures associated with the application of tax laws, regulations and decisions to specific transactions undertaken by a company. Probably the most significant transactional risk is tax planning that is not properly implemented. Many tax outcomes are sensitive to the underlying facts. A conclusion that holds for one set of facts may not hold if even a small variation occurs in the implementation.

Operational risk refers to the underlying risks of applying tax laws, regulations and administrative and judicial decisions to the routine everyday business operations of the company. The key issue here is how involved the tax function is in the business operations. Operational risk will be reduced if tax is heavily involved in operations and there are formal sign off procedures in place.

Compliance risk concerns how well an organization is meeting its tax compliance obligations. The risks here primarily relate to the preparation, completion and review of an organization's tax returns—for all tax types—and in how effective responses are to inquiries raised on returns by tax authorities. Dealing with compliance risk involves a cost-risk trade-off. It should be possible to design control systems that achieve a zero-error goal for tax returns. However, if the cost of such controls would be prohibitive—and in most instances, this would be the case—a middle ground where some errors are expected but the associated risks are small and the cost savings significant might be a more effective balance.

Financial accounting risk—the need to ensure effective "estimates" of deferred income taxes in the financial statement—has been brought into sharper focus by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act passed in the United States in 2002. Because the Act requires companies to document and test their internal controls over financial reporting, CFOs are becoming less tolerant of surprise adjustments to tax accounts. The real risk here may be that the "no surprise" attitude may foster a risk averse attitude in tax directors, which may lead to structuring opportunities being rejected even though the overall level of risk would otherwise be within the level the company would be normally prepared to accept.

Portfolio risk refers to the overall aggregate level of risk inherent in transactional, operational and compliance activities as a whole. It examines the interaction between these three specific risk areas. Such as, how should a company proceed or manage a proposed transaction if it is below the company's risk threshold for transactional risk, but carries a higher degree of compliance and/or operational risk?

Management risk occurs when a company fails to systematically and effectively manage the risks. To assess the degree of management risk, a key question is: Does your organization have a documented tax risk management policy, and the required expertise and resources to manage tax risks? A half-hearted approach may leave the company open to "surprises" or missed opportunities.

Reputational risk refers to the risk of damaged reputation. The question to be asked is how happy would you be if your company's tax problems were headline news in tomorrow's newspaper? Even if the company's business practices are entirely legitimate, the adverse publicity may impact negatively on the company's overall business.

Managing tax risks must be among the priorities of a company's management, and no less than the board of directors or at the least, the audit committee of the board should take the lead role. Formulating and documenting the tax risk management policy is the first step. No doubt, a documented tax risk management policy that is embraced by the board is crucial for good corporate governance.

Of the seven risks, perhaps the two key risks the board should focus on are portfolio risk and reputational risk. The board should have a general understanding of the company's risk profile as well as the impact that the company's tax position (or lack thereof) may have on its reputation. But how far the board should go is still an open question. Suffice it to say that in the new world of greater governance need, more involvement by the board than what has been normally practiced does seem appropriate.

The CEO and the CFO are expected to provide high level input into the tax strategy design and should be using the same as a framework for participating in significant tax related decisions on both the transactional side and the operational side. They clearly have an interest in the figures in the accounts and hence, in the financial accounting risk. They are also responsible for monitoring how tax risk is being managed and how the tax department is performing. While the board will approve the strategy, in practice it is the head of tax that will set the tone on tax risk management for the rest of the company. It is therefore critical that the head of tax, the CEO and the CFO, and the board are in agreement on the company's tax risk management policy.

Equally important in tax risk management is the role of the finance department for it is almost always involved in the implementation of significant transactions and in the production of detailed information for the tax returns. Not to be forgotten is the role of the operational people who are responsible for making decisions with potentially significant tax implications. Do they understand what risks they are taking; when they need to consult; when they can act without consulting; and what happens when something goes wrong? Will their performance be measured on a profit after tax so that they will not ignore the income tax implications of their decisions or actions?

The other key stakeholders in tax risk management are the external auditors and the tax advisors. External auditors have to understand both the policy and where the risks are being taken so they can plan their audit of the financial accounts. On the other hand, external advisors, who may or may not be the auditors, need to understand the corporate appetite for risk to help them filter out unsuitable ideas and deliver more appropriate advice.

In any case, tax risk management needs to be a part of a company's overall risk management policy and has to fit within its overall tax strategy. It is one parameter that can spell whether a company is successful in meeting its commitments and can withstand the pressure of future challenges.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is chair and senior partner of Isla Lipana & Co., a member firm of PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

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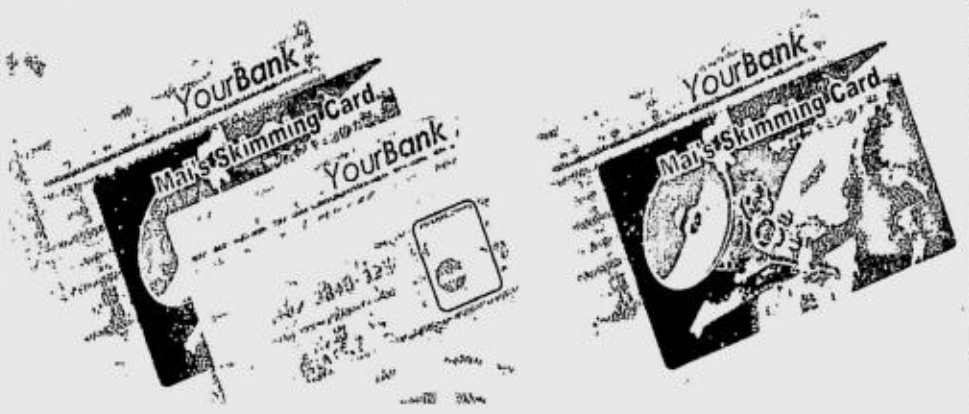

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View of RP . . .

From page B3-4

stinging voice, he questioned its accuracy and asked for its basis.

The presentor of the research paper groped for words to defend the integrity of his data without hurting the Malaysian's bruised pride.

Like a seasoned diplomat, he avoided answering the question directly and instead enumerated what he felt were some of the economic problems that Malaysia is going through at present.

Mercifully, the Malaysian did not pursue his point further and quietly accepted the not-so-pleasant observation about his country.

Recommendation

When the subject of equity investments came up, a US-based financial analyst who led the discussion was asked about the countries he considers good areas for investment.

He quickly answered "China, India and the Philippines."

Pressed to explain about his third choice, he explained that "he is bullish on the Philippines because it has turned the corner and has good economic fundamentals."

During the evening socials, a Japanese investment banker talked to me and about the endorsement of the Philippines as an investment site.

He said the recommendation was supported by the data gathered by his company's research staff.

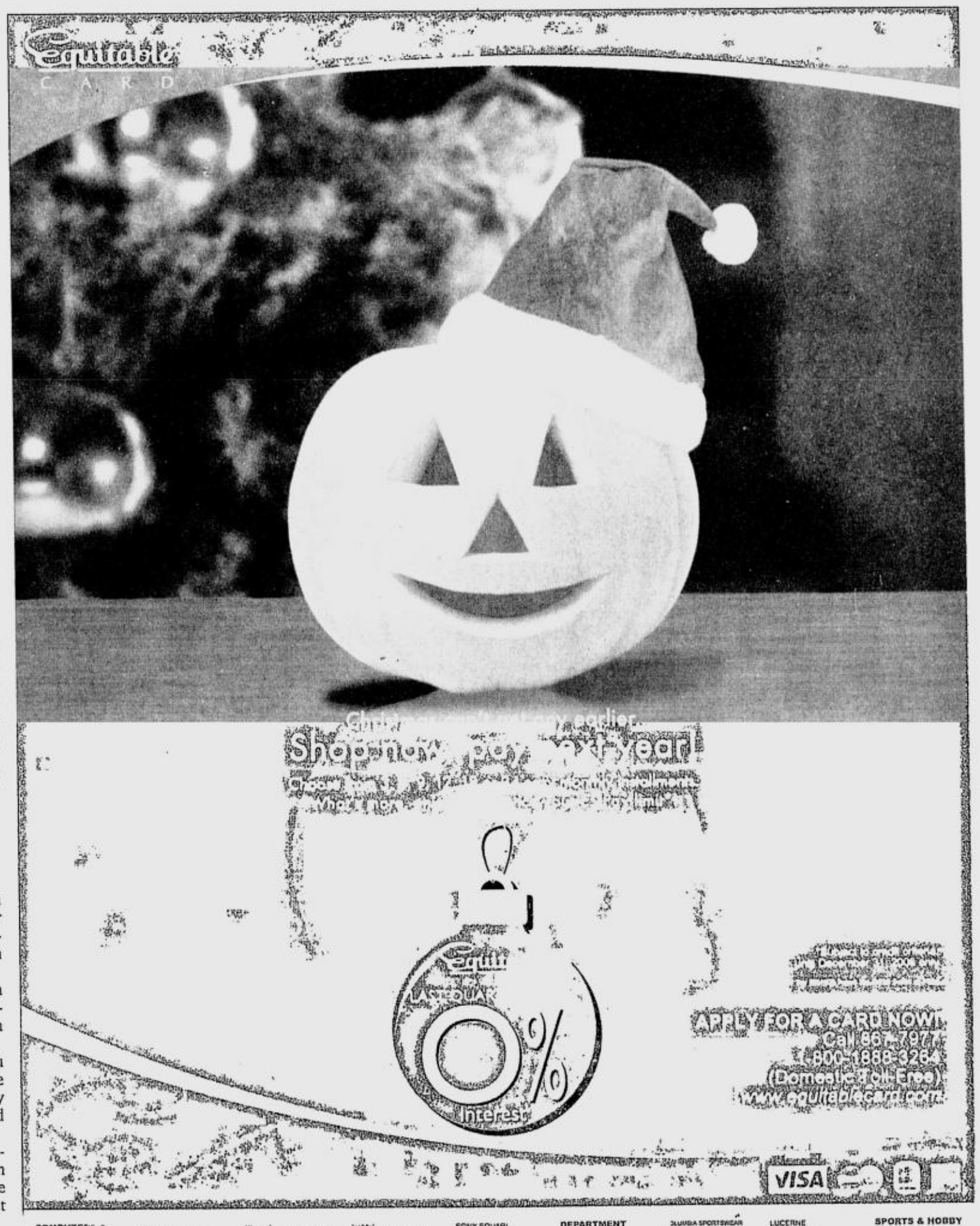
"But," he continued, "if you watch TV, most of the things I see about Philippines (sic) are military coups, political fighting, riot and killing of foreigners."

I spent almost an hour explaining to him that local and foreign media tend to exaggerate the news and that things were not that bad as they have been presented.

What, in a sense, saved the night for me was a Taiwanese who sidled up to us in the course of our talk.

When he heard I was from the Philippines, he remarked he has visited Cebu and Boracay and that he had a nice time. That statement drew a smile from the doubting Japanese.

(For feedback, please write to rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph)



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View of RP from outside

Corporate Securities Info
Raul Palabrica

LAST WEEK, I ATTENDED A CONFERence in Sanya, China on the latest funds and equity investment ideas in the international market.

In earlier times, meetings of this nature were held in Hong Kong, Singapore or other Asian financial centers. It is a tribute to China's strong economy that it's now considered a significant venue for discussions on financial deals.

The meeting was attended by executives of banks, investment companies and financial institutions based in Asia.

The participants were apprised of the new or hybrid instruments in the market that can generate additional capital or enhance the value of existing investment programs.

The description of some of the instruments sounded like an alphabet soup: CDO (Collateralized Debt Obligation), CRE CDO (Commercial Real Estate CDO), CLO (Collateralized Loan Obligation), EPICS (Economic Participation in CLO Securities) and CMBS (Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities).

The discussion was preceded by an analysis of the monetary policies of the United States, the economies of emergent India, Russia and Brazil and, as expected, investment opportunities in China.

Outlook

A London-based economist said China was "the wave of the future." He predicted that its growth would eclipse all other countries, including the United States which was hobbled by record deficits caused by serious financial and foreign affairs problems (read: Iraq).

After citing various facts and figures, he stated what he considered unmistakable proof of China's economic growth: The volume of its beef imports is the highest in the world.

In his book, a nation's wealth is directly proportional to its beef importation!

An international investment company presented its study and forecast on the economic outlook in Asia for a 12-month period.

Its research showed China, Taiwan and India on top of the list. They were given an "overweight" rating, which means their development is expected to continue smoothly.

Next on the rung with a "market weight" rating were Singapore, Hong Kong, Korea, the Philippines and Thailand.

Although Hong Kong is a province of China, it is given a separate economic status because of its strong standing in the world's economy.

The observation about the Philippines reads: "Illiquid, but better macro and good micro valuations/growth."

Fair rating

At the bottom of the list—with an "underweight" rating—were Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia.

The outlook for Australia is "moderately constructive but better opportunities elsewhere." Indonesia has "downside earnings risk and over-extended market." Malaysia is "structurally negative but potential laggard play."

A Malaysia banker did not take kindly to the gloomy forecast for his country. In a

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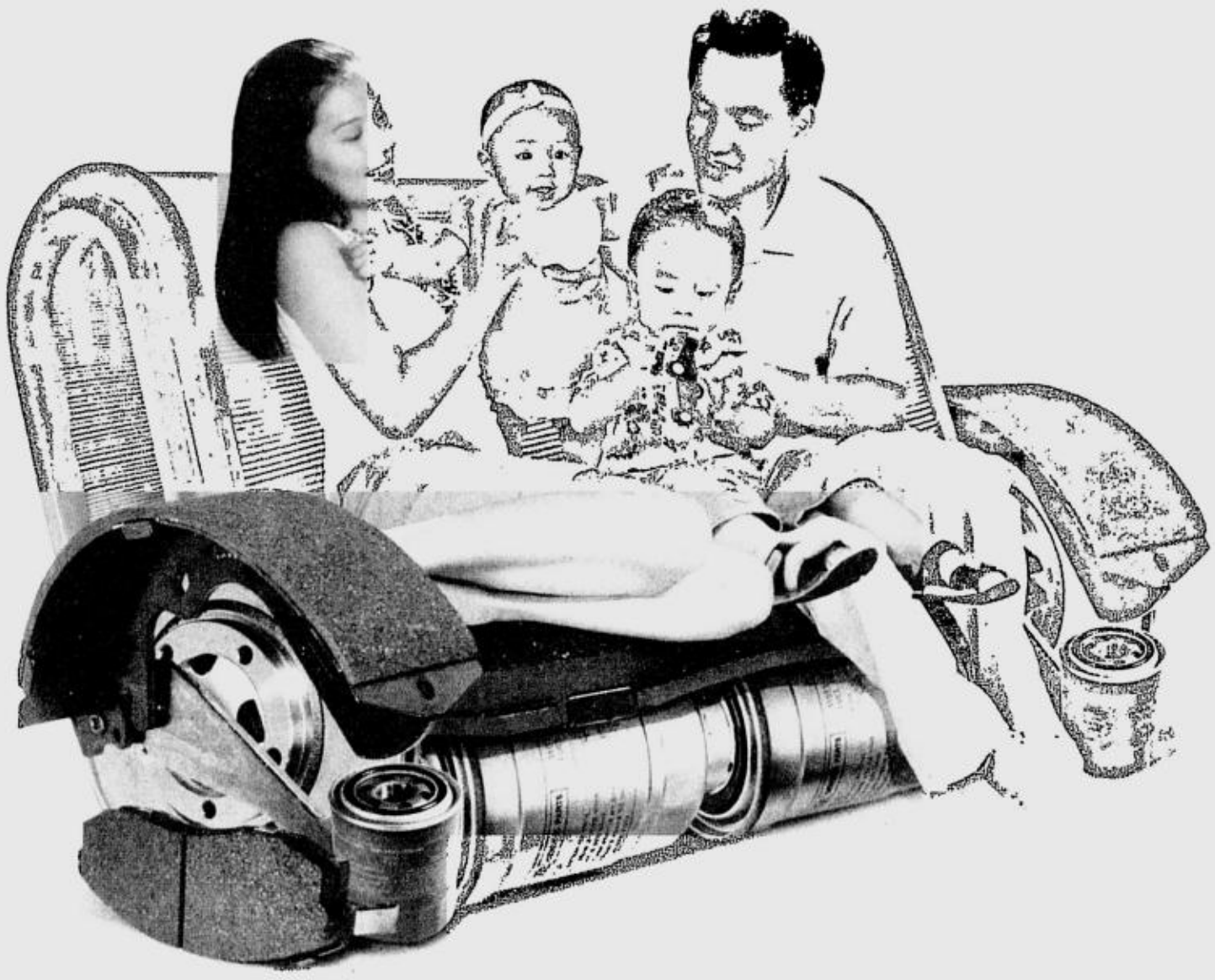

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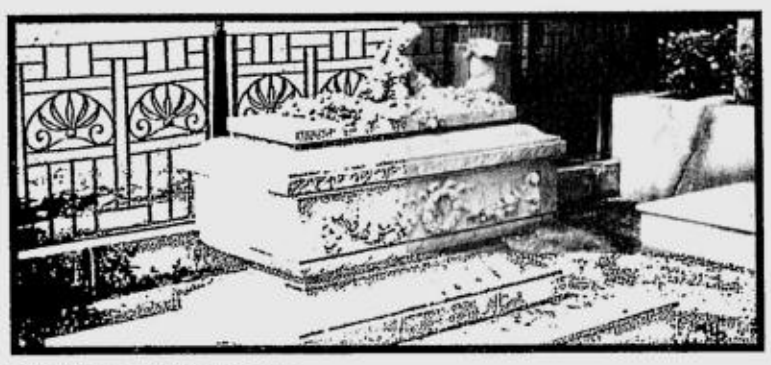
DETAIL of angel in Cemeterio del Norte

In the shadow of thy wings we rest

Key Manila cemeteries have the best examples of funerary architecture in the Philippines

PANTEON de Familia Johnsson



CHILD'S tomb in La Loma

AMERICAN Firemen Memorial

DETAIL on Mausoleo de Familia Cacho

TOMB of Pancho Villa

Text and photos by
Manuel Maximo Lopez del Castillo-Noche
Contributor

CEMETERIES ARE CONSIDERED cities of the dead. Usually enclosed by high walls, they remain virtual ghost towns for much of the year, their silence broken only every now and then by funeral processions and burials.

It is only during the much-celebrated All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day that they buzz with the activity of the living as those who are left behind pay their respects to the dead, bringing with them the trappings of daily life.

But there are more to cemeteries than the pervasive somber—if eerie—atmosphere; from an architectural standpoint, they are miniature showcases of various styles, forms and influences. They, in fact, tell the story of architecture.

The Cemeteria Catolica de la Loma, Cemeterio Municipal de Manila (Manila North Cemetery) and the Chinese Cemetery in Manila house the best examples of funerary architecture in the Philippines. Established during the dying years of the 19th century, they have what are probably the best and richest mausoleums money can buy.

Walking through these hallowed grounds, one passes by interpretations of Egyptian mortuary temples complete with palm-shaped columns and hollow gorged doorways on which are etched a solar disc with spread wings—the Egyptian symbol of protection. There, too, are pyramids guarded by sphinxes, as well as Greek- and Roman-inspired temples with Doric, Ionic or Corinthian orders.

Other styles are represented as well: Romanesque-type churches with their barrel vaults; Gothic interpretations with their characteristic pointed arches; Art Nouveau memorials with their flowing sinuous lines; Art Deco mausoleums with their jazz-like edges; Modern International Style mortuaries with their simple plain-white walls; and the ever

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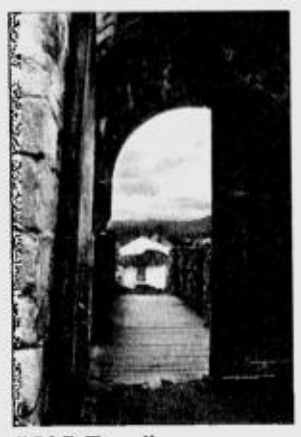
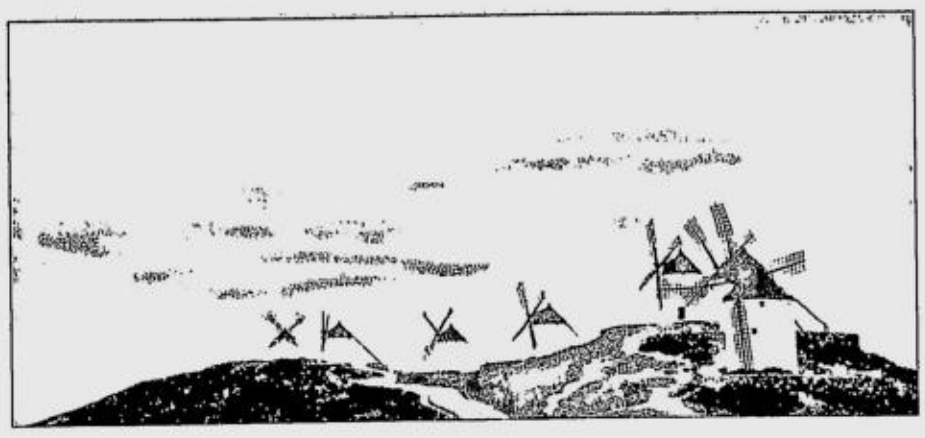


"OLD Town"



"WINDMILLS of La Mancha"

Photography with soul

By Constantino C. Tejero

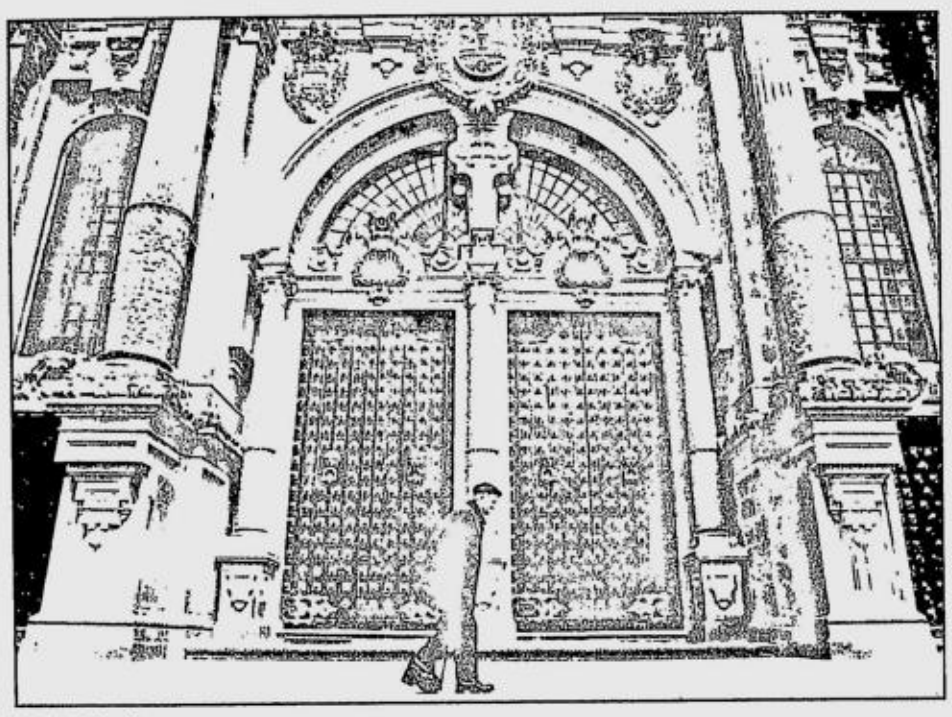
PILAR TUASON IS ONE OF THE most sought-after wedding photographers in the country, but she proves herself to be just as adept with other subjects.

Landscape and architecture, particularly, are the noble themes of her exhibit of 12 black-and-white pieces, "Rincones de España," until Oct. 31 at Casa Armas, L/3, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City.

The show announces itself as a peek into some corners of Spain, which may shed light on the culture and terrain of that ancient land. And so we have here some postcard-pretty images of the windmills of La Mancha, a house on a promontory in Cuenca, the church of Santiago de Compostela, the Muxia lighthouse, a boat.

A few pieces are not identifiably Iberian, such as those images of coastline, shore and sea, which can be any nook and cranny on the planet. But these are remarkable compositions just the same, particularly the piece with clutches of reeds and another with white picket fences on a white beach.

Tuason's painterly composition is characterized by clean lines, defined shapes, patterns alternating with empty spaces.

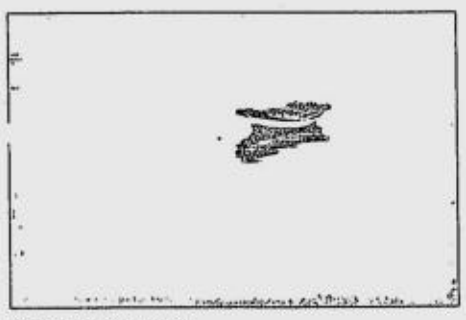


"OLD Man"

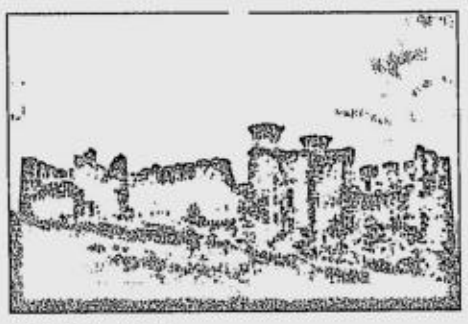
She especially thrives on chiaroscuro, of solid shadows and blinding light.

More than being well-crafted, however, these pieces suggest a human touch. One senses that a keen and sympathetic human eye and not a cold machine directs the focus to the subject.

Take, for instance, that picture-perfect image of an ancient architectural façade in Cuenca with a man walking by. The human figure is easily dwarfed by the stone structure and might likely be ignored,



"LONELY Boat"



"OLD Castle"

until one looks closer and sees that the man has an artificial leg. He is a polio victim, in fact.

Then there are the architectural details the photographer documents that look gnarled like the faces of the old women she juxtaposes with them. Here in these telltale details, can one distinguish the artist from the garden-variety photographer.

Tuason started in 1997 but became a professional photographer only [illegible] years ago. Shooting with both film and digital cameras, she shows a fondness for black-and-white and infrared photography.

"I'm from the School of Hard Knocks," laughs Tuason.

She taught herself the craft by just observing other photographers at work, reading a lot of photography books and magazines, studying theories of light and color, composition. And as is often

Making waves with capiz, clarinet and candles

MARGIE Lim's "Fiesta de Sto. Niño"

TITO Estrada's "Abyssal Fire"

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

AN ARTIST WHO CAME TO ART BY way of interior design (he owns Galleria Estrada at 100 Sct. Rallos, Quezon City), Tito Estrada has been working for two years now on canvases of unusually large sizes for hotel lobbies, residences, resorts.

Estrada, 49, a business management graduate, has particularly explored the uses of capiz, a deep-sea shell of pearly white color, which he uses as a painting accessory. Estrada has incorporated it in his work, not simply as a decorative element, but something decidedly integral and truly ingenious in the scheme of things.

Water is his favored subject, so it is de rigueur to the artist that both medium and image are welded together, with capiz as the focal point of it all. Having taken the abstract route, he paints of water as both tranquil and vibrant, a precious resource and an auspicious feng-shui symbol.

A commissioned work for the Westin Plaza Hotel, soon to be renamed Sofitel, are large twin set pieces titled "Abyssal Fire," measuring 47 ¼" x 104," set to become the hotel lobby's main attractions. These large formidable-looking works radiate a kaleidoscope of colors, inspired by the depths of the oceans.

Encrusted with capiz of varied shapes, and small seashells splattered across the pictorial field, these works must have caught the eye of the Japanese hotel-owner as he decided to offer Estrada a solo show in January next year to coincide with the hotel's reopening.

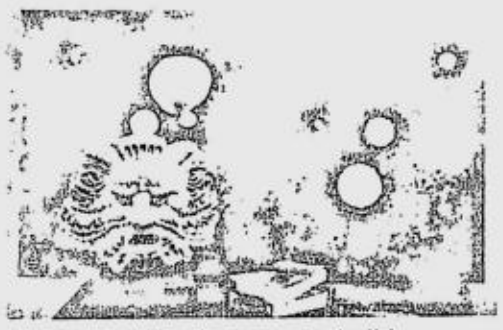
Artist-musician

An artist with a musical soul, Beatriz Robles has been a student of clarinet for three years now, under Ariel Sta. Ana of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. But she's also devoted to the visual arts since her father is Rene Robles.

Her chosen medium is pastel, for its fluidity

BEATRIZ Robles' "Violin"

MARGIE Lim at work on her feathery subject



ESTRADA'S "Underwater Series" I

and ease in handling. Ttwo dozens of drawings in that medium comprise the show "Cymbalist Explosion: When Music and Art Collide" at the Heritage Gallery.

The show is ample proof that music can, indeed, be an engrossing journey inside out. The cross bars, musical notations, various orchestral instruments—all these are transformed into a palpable fusion of shapes, textures, colors.

What makes the work so charming is the free-spirited nature of the images. Ostensibly no visual genres bound her, and she clearly yields only to the creative forces. These works have a disarming quality that by turns are soothing, hypnotic, mesmerizing. In time, the young artist would find solid bearing.

New watercolor artist

Someone who is into business and management may find it hard to turn to art if she is past middle age and is merely self-taught. But Margie Lim happens to be endowed with an eye for detail, an exuberant sense of composition, and competence in the delicate water-based medium.

She paints mostly still life and has emerged on the Top 5 of the Kulay sa Tubig contest this year. "A Thousand Wishes," her winning piece, portrays a dreamy, smoke-filled candlelit ceremony that is a triumphant use of watercolor.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

ESTRADA'S "Goddess of the Sea"

The cult value of Re

By Gary Devilles
Contributor

PHILOSOPHER WALTER BENJAMIN believes works of art are received on different planes, with one, the accent is on the cult value, and with the other, on the exhibition value of the work.

The history of art is the shift from these two values, as elks portrayed on cave walls, hidden Madonnas, and certain statues of gods accessible only to the priests, eventually giving way to portraits or busts here and there, postcards of saints, and museum of artifacts.

Accordingly, with the various methods of art reproduction, the shift of values transformed the very nature and function of art. Thus, for Benjamin, in today's age of mechanical reproduction, art is revolutionized, much more democratized, becomes accessible to all, even to the toiling mass, considering that in the past they have been denied of such contact or privilege.

However, the cult value of art does not give up easily for it can find its way as well even in the modern world, as photography brought out our fascination for portraits, our intimate yearning for an enigmatic smile, and our profound longing for that unfathomable face that supposedly can launch a thousand ships.

With Rodel Tapaya's exhibit "Mukha" (The Face) at Blanc Art Space (2E Crown Tower, 107 H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati; tel. 7520032, 09209276436), art sets us once again to this kind of carousing and musing, as some of the faces requisitioned on the canvas remind us of that primordial relationship with our derelict selves.

Viewing Tapaya's works is like having that uneasy feeling of disenchantment as though we have forgotten our humanity, and as though upon looking at a mirror, we fail to see the person, substituting the reflection for the real.

Such disenchantment is the real power that

"BONDYING"

animates Tapaya's works.

Sharp images

Tapaya creates an interr[illegible] of who and what we are, as [illegible] sharp anxiety of a woman i[illegible] si Aling Lydia," the misera[illegible] of "Bondying," the awkwa[illegible] and stance of "Simon," and [illegible] look of "Elias." These repre[illegible] bolic stance are actually critique [illegible] conditions of dehumanization a[illegible] ment.

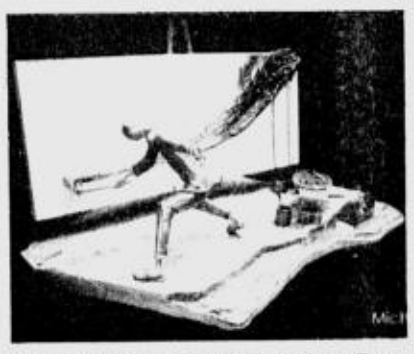
For Tapaya, the faces of ordin[illegible] and the familiar characters in lit[illegible] actually vestiges of potent em[illegible] make us more human but somehow [illegible] rience with modernity rendered [illegible] less, shadowy and indescribable. T[illegible] cal innovations oftentimes sever [illegible] connect us. Our penchant for cell [illegible]

Michael Cacnio sculptures at Art Exchange

"ART EXCHANGE" IS A rare exhibition of collaborative works in celebration of Michael Cacnio's 15 years as a sculptor.

Sharing their artistry are some of the country's art greats and emergent talents: Gabby Barredo, Elmer Borlongan, Angel Cacnio, Araceli Dans, Romulo Galicano, Emmanuel Garibay, Mark Justiniani, Lao Lianben, Ferdie Montemayor, Ramon Orlina, Benjie Reyes, Farley del Rosario, Rex Tatlonghari and Janice Young.

Also featured are tribute pieces to the late National Artists Ang Kiukok and J. Elizalde Navarro.



MICHAEL Cacnio with Lao Lian Ben

"Art Exchange" is running at the Art Exchange, 3/L, Glorietta 4, until Nov. 7.

The exhibit is assisted by The Artery Manila. Call 7529089.

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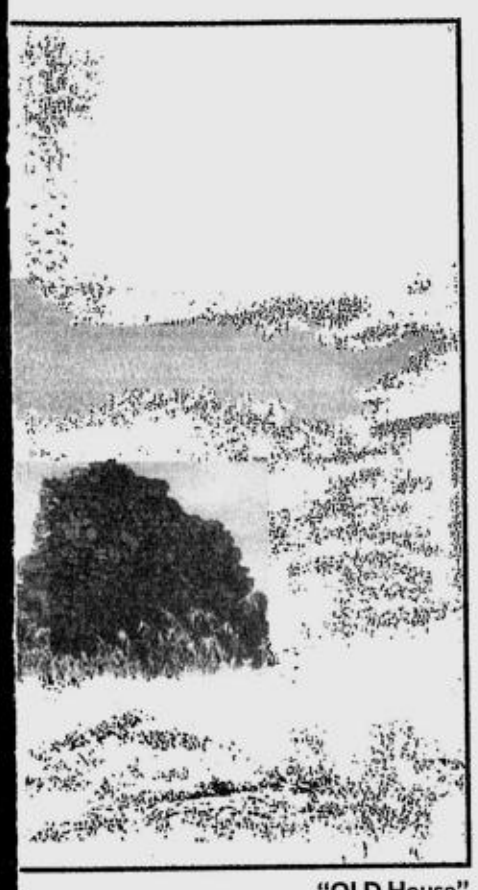


"OLD House"

autodidacts, she produces pieces that can considerably compare with the best in the art and the profession.

Her photographs are mostly in black-and-white film. Specializing in fine-art portraiture, she has produced over 70 wedding annuals.

She is the photo editor of Digital Photographer magazine. She put up Bella Luce Studio on Rada Street, Makati City.

These days, photography to her as a job has become routine. "I can shoot, shoot, shoot—it's automatic—and the results are professional-looking but can be unsatisfying."

As artist, of course, she is looking for that proverbial human factor. Like any photographer with an aspiration to art, she can stand there with her camera, or sit, squat, crouch or crawl while waiting for the right moment—that crucial factor that distinguishes a picture with soul from a soulless photograph.

'In the shadow of thy wings . . .

From page C1

ubiquitous mausoleums done in the Postmodern style.

Oriental architecture manifests itself in the form of Chinese pagodas with up curved tiled roofs and elaborately crafted mystical dragons, and Hindu Sikhara temples with parabolic-shaped domes.

Best materials

Most of these memorials are made of the best materials. Blocks of solid-white marble or green or black granite are carved and chiseled with volutes and scrolls or acanthus leaves to replicate Greek or Roman temples. Others are carved with intricate cusps to adorn the edges of pinnacles for Gothic spires.

Magnificent sculptures crafted by Luerssen y Oriol and Sons during the early part of the century dominate the tombs of the wealthy and the famous. Elaborate statues and stelaes or *lapidas* bearing Oriol's signature are found all over the three Manila cemeteries.

But one does not necessarily have to be a marble magnate to have a beautiful mausoleum. Most other memorials are more humble in their construction. Made of hollowed plaster reinforced by concrete and decorated with allegories of weeping angels, they have as well managed to stand the test of time.

The statuary found particularly in La Loma and Norte are quite interesting. If one wonders where the art of sculpting has gone, one only has to visit these two cemeteries to find the answer.

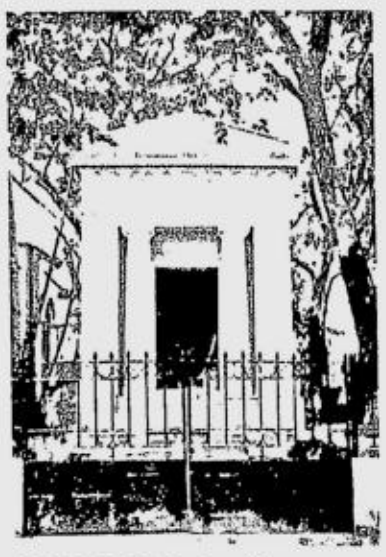
The graceful lines of weeping widows, guardian angels crying at the demise of their beloved wards, sorrowful virgins praying to high heavens and staunch maidens protecting the tombs of their beloved are but a few of the images that these statues capture—though one wonders why only women seem to have the right to weep over their dearly departed.

Even the art of the *lapida* is seen at its best in these cemeteries. Names carved in the Art Nouveau or Art Deco style are surrounded with bas-relief of angels and garlands of flowers, while a tomb of a small child is decorated with small statues of playing children.

Famous personalities

Of the three cemeteries, it is in the North Cemetery where most of the famous personages in Philippine history are interred. Like the Cemeterio de la Recoleta in Buenos Aires where Evita Peron is entombed; Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington D.C. where the tombs of the Kennedys are; Highgate in London where Karl Marx is buried; or the Tikhvin in St. Petersburg, where the great 19th-century composers Tchaikovsky, Rimsky Korsakov and Mussorgsky are buried—the Norte houses the mortal remains of celebrities including Pancho Villa, world lightweight champion of the 1920s; Felix Resureccion Hidalgo, world-class painter and patriot; Claro M. Recto, orator and nationalist; film icons and father and son Fernando Poe Sr. and Jr.; the late presidents Manuel A. Roxas, Sergio Osmeña and Ramon Magsaysay; American Governor General Francis Burton Harrison; the heroes of the Philippine Revolution against Spain; Gregoria de Jesus, wife of Bonifacio and muse of the Katipunan; and the first American teachers known as the Thomasites and firefighters of the land.

MAUSOLEO de Familia Barredo



MAUSOLEO de Familia Fernandez

UNKNOWN grave

MAUSOLEO de Familia Tuazon-Legarda

Unfortunately, not many people find pleasure in visiting cemeteries. Perhaps it is the presence of a tomb or the sight of rows upon rows of crosses and peeling statues of weeping angels that bring horror to most.

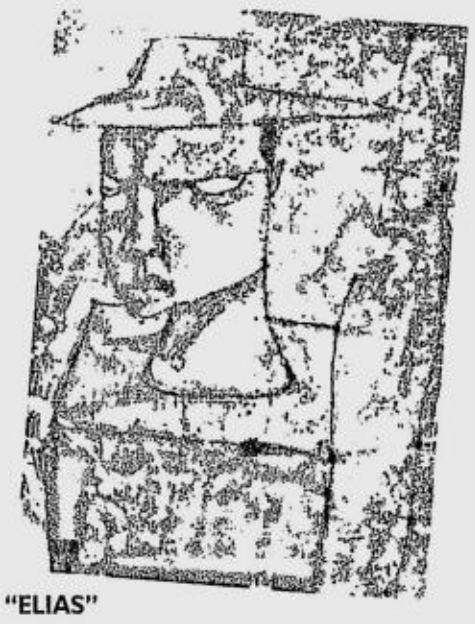
Cemeteries are memorials not only to those who have gone beyond, but also to the glory days of funerary art and architecture. That alone should be enough reason to see them not just as places of yearly pilgrimages but also as heritage sites that serve as a bridge to the architecture of the past. For in the end, our mortal remains shall rest in such cemeteries and what better way to celebrate our life but with monuments dedicated to our memory.

A dedication inscribed in a tomb in Cemeterio de la Loma describes what I think is our utmost desire: "In the shadow of thy wings we rest, for in the end we do need to rest, and preferably in his shadow."

The author is an architect and architectural historian. He teaches at the College of Architecture of the University of Sto. Tomas.

odel Tapaya's works

His works show images of complex emotions



"ELIAS"

"SISA"

"THE FOURTH King"

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Internet, for instance, only enhances more the gaps in communication as connections eventually become commodities.

Indeed, it's funny that we settle for emoticons to express our feelings when our faces can articulate more powerful emotions. As Plato warns, we settle for images in the cave when the real stands outside basking in the light. We become like "The Fourth King" here in Tapaya's collection—lost, searching in vain for a king when the real one resides within.

Tapaya is a finalist in the 2005 Ateneo Arts Awards and the 2003 Philippine Art Awards. His intensive studies in New York and Helsinki, Finland, had made him a much-sought artist.

His works will be featured in a children's book published by Canvas and UST Publishing House, the same group that brought the late Romeo Forbes' works to print in "Elias and His Trees" and Elmer Borlongan's renditions for the "Rocking Horse."

Tapaya is off to Singapore for a show at Utterly Art.

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Safeguard champions health to fulfill dreams

In 1989, Safeguard and the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists (PAMET) introduced a program to award exceptional young men and women with medical technology scholarships. The scholarship program, known as **"Handog ng Safeguard... Medtechs ng Kinabukasan"**, marks its 17th anniversary this year, as well as a milestone for having supported over 200 underprivileged students across the country to date.

As part of Safeguard's commitment in championing health to fulfill dreams, 15 more medical technology students will be awarded with the 3-year medical technology scholarships at the Conservatory of The Peninsula Manila at 6 o'clock this evening. Centering on the theme, "A Brand New Day," tonight's ceremony celebrates a bright future for the awardees.

Safeguard congratulates this year's batch of "Handog ng Safeguard... Medtechs ng Kinabukasan" scholars: Blessing D. Dilla, Vicenta G. Montehermoso and Daryll M. Sulleza of the University of San Agustin, Iloilo City; John Patrick V. de Guzman and Anna Angelica D.R. Napi of Centro Escolar University, Manila; Judea Marie B. Policarpio of Manila Central University, Caloocan City; Jallil Ken D. Dayo of San Pedro College, Davao City; Paola Angeleca Z. Gargantiel and Robina P. Cesar of Riverside College, Bacolod City; Blessie Grace E. Dumalanta of the University of Baguio; Rene G. Paredes of the University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, Bacolod City; Lorwin S. Esteban of Lyceum of Batangas; Mary Christine M. Esclavia of Colegio San Agustin, Bacolod City; Ariel M. Marticio of Ago Medical & Educational Center, Legaspi City; and Marvie A. Bayawa of Dipolog Medical Center College Foundation, Dipolog City.

The celebration will also be a platform for the launch of the Safeguard Acquired Reading and Learning (ARAL) Program to benefit over 60 children aged 13 and below. The ARAL Program will build a Safeguard Aral Center, a school building which Safeguard together with Gawad Kalinga is building in Tondo to provide a venue conducive for education and values formation. The program will also award scholarships to over 60 preschool and elementary students. Together with PAMET, it will also launch a Science and Health supplementary program to develop the interest of the children in science at a very young age.

Throughout its 40-year brand heritage, Safeguard has become recognized as the nation's health partner. The brand's steadfast commitment to improve the lives of Filipinos through health education and service programs is also a reflection of its gratitude to the people for their loyalty and support from day one.

Advt'l

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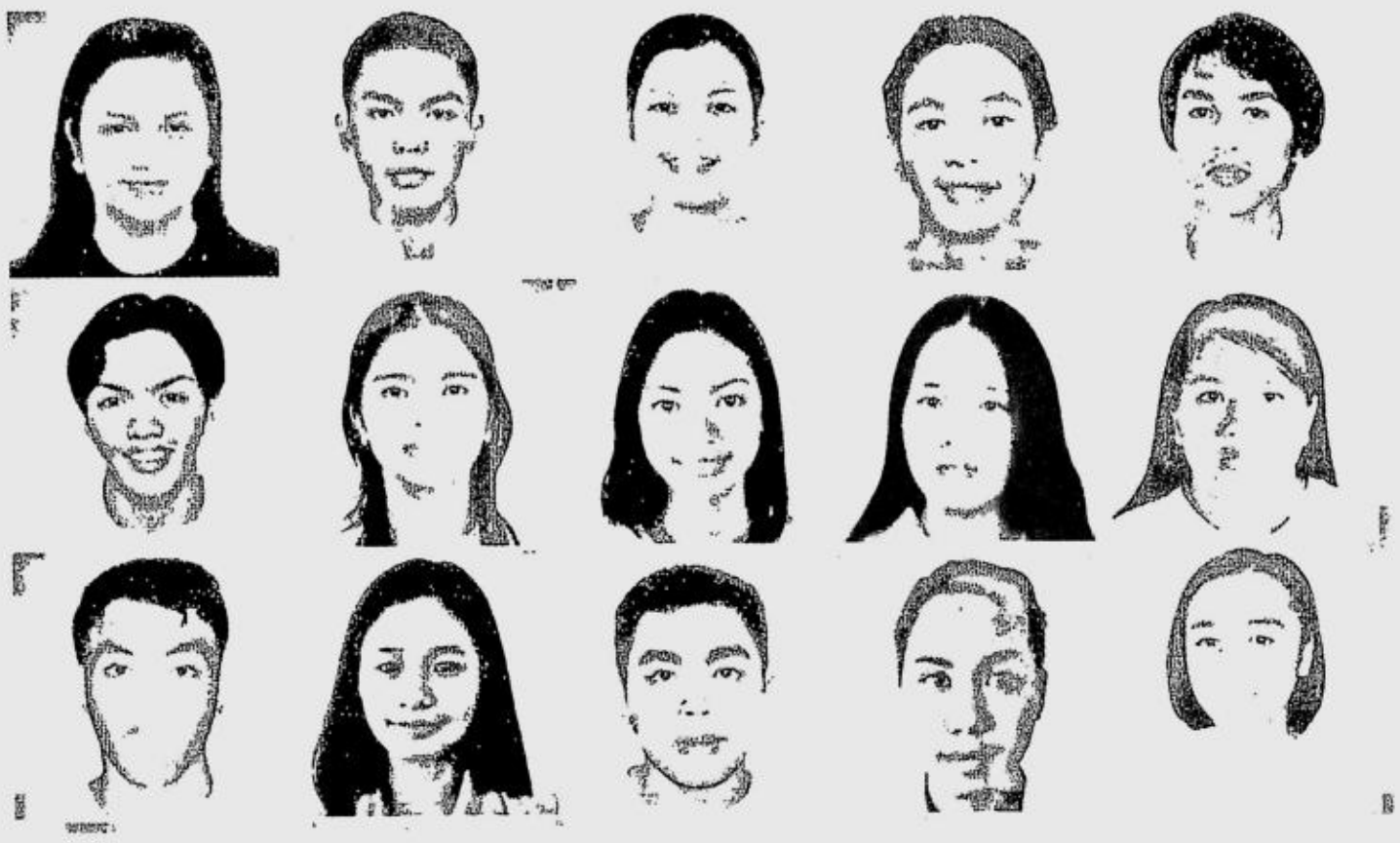


First row: Anna Angelica D.R. Napi, Ariel M. Marticio, Marvie A. Bayawa, Lorwin S. Esteban, Daryll M. Sulleza
Second row: John Patrick V. De Guzman, Judea Marie B. Policarpio, Mary Christine M. Esclavia, Blessing D. Dilla, Blessie Grace E. Dumalanta
Third row: Jallil Ken D. Dayo, Paola Angeleca Z. Gargantiel, Rene G. Paredes, Robina P. Cesar, Vicenta G. Montehermoso

Kaya di kami nagdalawang-isip na itaguyod ang pangarap ng mga mahuhusay at karapat-dapat na Medtech students.
Tulad ng 15 recipients ng 17th Handog ng Safeguard Medtechs ng Kinabukasan Scholarship Program.

Safeguard

2006 HANDOG NG Safeguard MedTechs Ng Kinabukasan SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS · 1964 · PAMET

FROM BOOK TO MOVIE

Queen of cake rehabilitated

HER YOUTH proved to be the undoing of Marie Antoinette (Kirsten Dunst).

By Eldric Paul A. Peredo
Contributor

Antonia Fraser gives a kinder view of Marie Antoinette, and Sofia Coppola's film completes the renovation

LEAVE IT TO DIRECTOR SOFIA Coppola to transform a revisionist view of Marie Antoinette, the last queen of France, into a modern film that is at once hip and historically sound.

In her third feature, "Marie Antoinette" (Columbia Pictures, 2006), Coppola takes material from the biography by Lady Antonia Fraser and proceeds to visualize the apparently misunderstood royal in candy colors and bubbly portrayals.

Why not? The book and the film trace the life of Marie Antoinette from the time she is sent from her native Austria to France in marriage to the French dauphin Louis Auguste, the future Louis XVI, to the couple's travel to Paris after they are confronted at Versailles by the hungry French mob—all of which happened when Marie Antoinette was 14-37 years of age, the time when a woman has but bloomed and just started pursuing her ambitions.

While in the last decade history books portrayed Marie Antoinette as an extravagant queen indifferent to the plight of poor France, recent accounts, Fraser's foremost, tell a different story. On the one side, Marie's famous statement to the mob, "Let them eat cake," has been exposed as a hoax and just the product of bad press. And if it did, it was, at the least, explainable by the queen's own exuberant if unknowing youth.

And she was hardly to blame for it, too. Fraser's characterization shows the queen as an Austrian outcast in an ultra-strict French court, riddled with etiquette and strictures governing her every movement from the moment she opens her eyes. Today a girl her age would howl in protest over the lack of freedom. In fact, at that age, a rebellious nature is more than expected; it is almost natural.

We suppose growing-up pains back then existed as they do today. That is an enlightening thought and at the same time rectifying, given the somber solemnity usually attached to the era.

Capturing the queen's flippant but trapped nature for the screen is Kirsten Dunst, who worked with Coppola in the latter's much-acclaimed first feature, "The Virgin Suicides," another adaptation.

Dunst gives the frivolous touch perfectly with her youthful looks—bright blue eyes punctuating a pale complexion, her face framed by bouncing blonde curls (although, in the movie, they give way to the heavy column hairstyle of the Versailles court). Her acting is nothing to scoff at, either. Effectively she personifies the conflict of responsibility and leisure in a young ruler's mind.

Jason Schwartzman of "Rushmore" fame plays Marie Antoinette's husband, the equally young and reluctant ruler. He brings to life Louis' shy and uninformed personality, one that causes the unconsummation of the marriage for an astounding seven years. That raises questions over and adds pressure on Marie Antoinette's capability to produce an heir. Louis' obtuse way of dealing with his wife might have led to the latter falling into her rumored affair with the Swedish Count Fersen.

More woes

The queen's woes did not end there. She had to contend with gossip over her relationships and criticism over her spending, things that did not sit well with the French. At Versailles, the court watched her every move, courtesy of rules that had been laid down by Louis XIII, including her baths, meals, disrobing, and first childbirth (there would be no other public viewing of her in labor, as she would thereafter protest).

"Marie" the movie does not come off with the heavy dramatic artillery, however. Coppola's manner of approach is as flippant as its character, but without losing the grip on her developing maturity later.

The movie is permeated with candy colors and is bouncy with details consistent with a teenage girl, such as fashion trends, girl talk, chocolate, and flirting. This is complemented

QUEEN/ D2

Josie Darang's book of miracles

By Dulce Festin-Baybay
Contributor

IF THERE'S ANYONE TODAY who speaks, breathes, lives and sleeps on miracles, that's Josephine Clemente Darang.

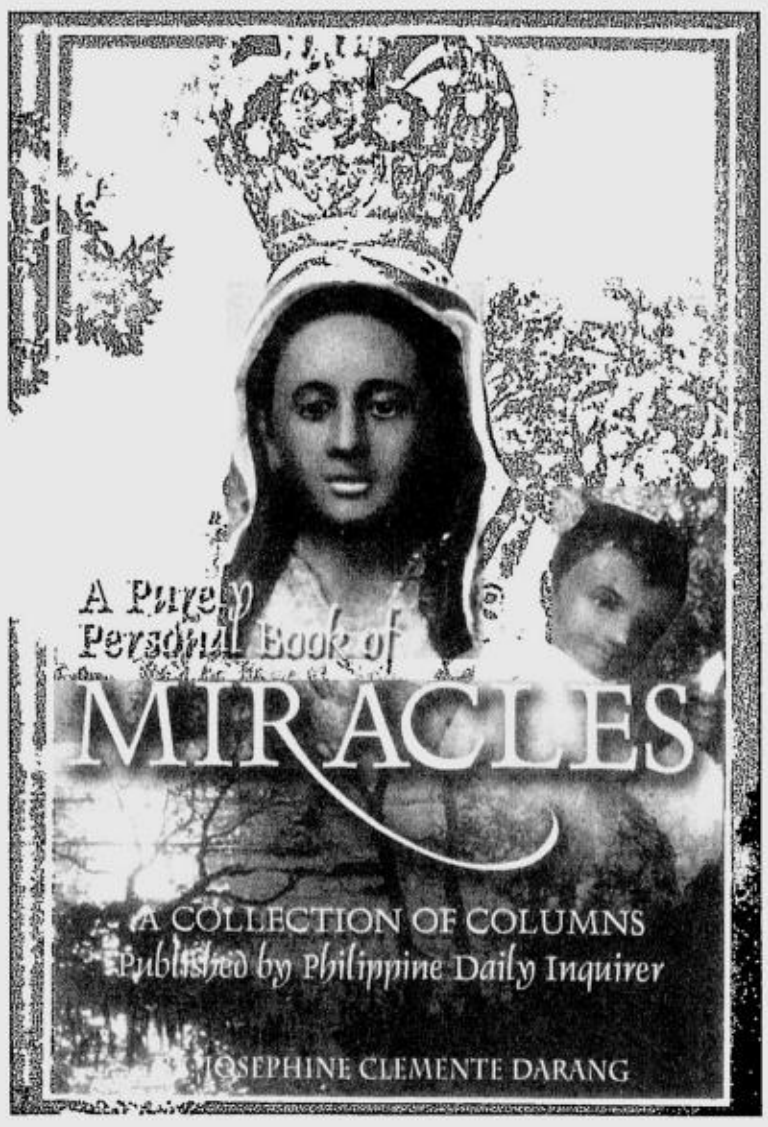
In fact, Josie's life is a miracle in itself. And "A Purely Personal Book of Miracles," the collection of her columns that have faithfully been published by PDI since 1987, is a testimony to that.

For those who want miracles, take it from Josie's experiences as she recounts incidents that transformed her life. From her previous reputation as a "Mother Earth" and "sinful woman" to what she is today, a daily Mass-goer and promoter of *novenas*, she takes faith from a "purely personal" point of view, but going public with her testimonials of the spirit.

As this woman from Ilocos Norte explains in the Introduction: "It was not easy to come to this phase of my life. I had to go through a lot of suffering, so I could testify to the miracle that happened to me. For five years from 1981 to 1985, I suffered from achalasa, which was the swelling of the muscles of the esophagus blocking the mouth of the stomach. I dehydrated as food and water would be vomited, retaining some."

"Finally, I was operated on April 23, 1985, by Dr. William Olalia at the UST Hospital. The following morning, I was able to imbibe water for the first time without vomiting it. My brother Joe told me later that our Lola Cela prayed to Apo Baket—Our Lady of Manaoag."

Two years later, thanks to then lifestyle editor of the INQUIRER, Lita Logarta, who wrote the words "Purely Personal" on top of Josie's article titled "The Miracle of Our Lady of Manaoag in my life," her column began. It was a column like no other.



PURELY Personal columnist Josephine Darang signs copies of her book for fans and well-wishers.

As her former editor points out in the preface: "A must-mention here is that Josie's column certainly increased circulation of PDI, as one anniversary issue of the newspaper acknowledged. A marketing survey even proved more and more people were reading it. She often got—and gets—more mail than other more famous columnists of the same newspaper (at that time, an average of 200 letters per week from Aparri to Jolo). Well-deserved, indeed, was the Catholic Author's Award given her in 1994 by the late Jaime Cardinal Sin."

Many miracles

Leafing through the 296 pages of Josie's book, published by Sound Publishing Corp. and printed by Imprenta de San José, one is overwhelmed by the many "miraculous" works attributed to the Blessed Virgin and her appellations, the saints, and the Sto. Niño.

When asked about the basis for her choice of columns, which now number in the hundreds, she explained she first wrote titles for the chapters, some 12 of them, and fitted in her columns into: Testimonies of Miracles; Beatification and Canonization; Churches and Shrines; The Clergy; Defending the Faith; Devotions; Fiestas; Pilgrimages Abroad; Local Pilgrimages; Reaching out; Religious Orders and Religious Organizations. Arranged in this manner, it is hoped the book's readers won't end up confused with too many saints and *novenas*.

The articles are written in fast-paced narrative form, replete with names, places, basic historical data on events and projects.

A unique feature of the book are the numerous requests from priests, seminarians and church supporters from provinces for help in finishing the construction of buildings and schools. There are many appeals for medical help as well. Most of the time, their prayer requests, according to Josie, are answered, miracles in themselves.

And due to the many answered prayers coursed through "Purely Personal," Josie Darang may be considered one of the biggest and most effective fundraisers in the country today. She has helped build hundreds of churches throughout the country, a record for a single individual.

And she is not even a millionaire, according to her. Like her saints, though, Josie says she will bless and accept whatever appellation is attributed to her.

Because of her appeal for financial help to readers of PDI (which, by the way, are given directly to those in need and never coursed through her), she has become one of the most sought-after columnists when it comes to fiestas and various church events. As a result, the popular figure of Josie Darang resplendently walking in the middle of church aisles during many religious occasions in many areas is a sight to behold.

As one of her favorite priests, Fr. Virgilio Saenz Mendoza of General Trias, Cavite, says: "When it comes to church activities, when Josie wants to sing, she will sing, and she gets away with it. And she also always manages to get a sponsor for the occasion."

"Conversion can happen anytime," says Josie. "It is never too late. That is God's message, which I try to convey in my column."

Thanks to this book compilation of her columns, one can now find out how the prayerful and compassionate Josephine Clemente Darang finds her own "miracles" in daily life.

Available at National Book Store

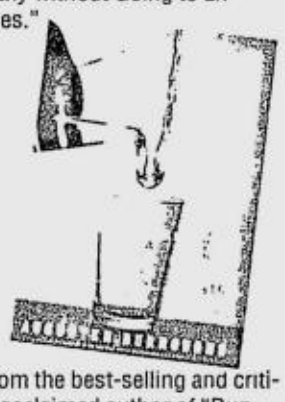
Recommended reads

HERE ARE POWERBooks' recommended reads for the month.

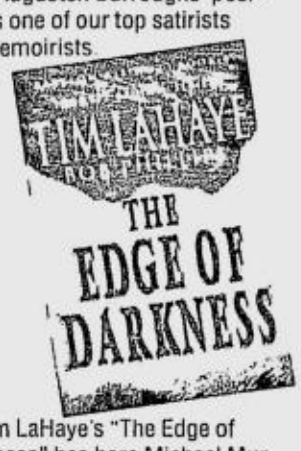
Celebrity chef Rocco DiSpirito blasts through the rash of meals-in-30-minutes cookbooks with "Rocco's Five Minute Flavor: Fabulous Meals with 5 Ingredients in 5 Minutes."

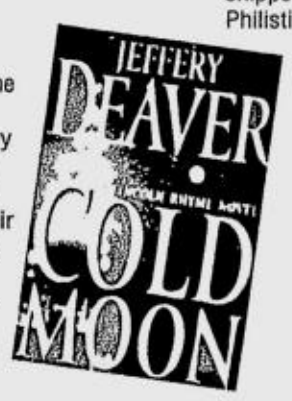
Best-selling cookbook author and Food Network star Rachael Ray cooks up another helping of creative, hassle-free recipes that are ready to shake your tastebuds in less than 30 minutes in "30-Minute Get Real Meals: Eat Healthy without Going to Extremes."

Make great Asian food without going through the hassle of looking for hard-to-find ingredients. In "Everyday Asian," Marnie Henricksson shares 75 of her favorite Asian dishes with home cooks.


From the best-selling and critically acclaimed author of "Running with Scissors" and "Dry" comes "Magical Thinking," a collection of true stories that confirms Augusten Burroughs' position as one of our top satirists and memoirists

"Journal" by Kristi Atkinson tells of the tale of a tantalizing diary of a troubled young wife and mother made up of correspondence, clippings from newspaper accounts and remnants of the 19th-century novel.


Tim LaHaye's "The Edge of Darkness" has hero Michael Murphy searching for the Lost Temple of Dagon and the dark secrets of the strange god once worshipped by the ancient Philistines.


Jeffrey Deaver will chill your spine with "Cold Moon," a story of two people brutally murdered and their death scenes marked by eerie, matching calling cards.

PowerBooks Specialty Store is a complete one-stop bookstore with branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428-29), Megamall (6352898-99), Alabang Town Center (8505662-63), Glorietta 3 (7527067), Shangri-La (6380024), Robinsons Place Ermita (5233334), and Mall of Asia (5560244).

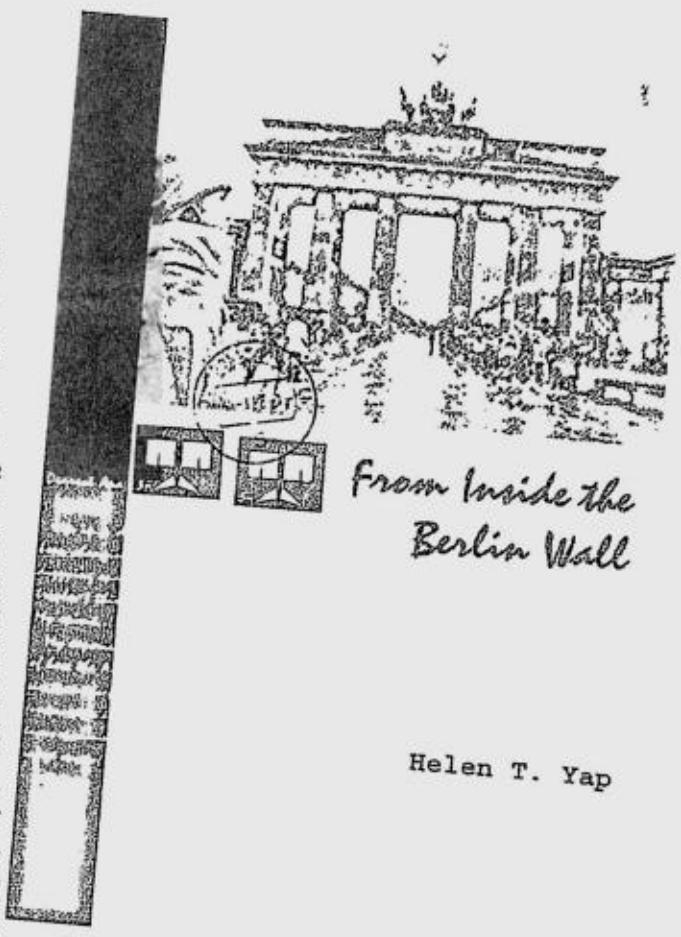
Young Filipina discovers the world behind the wall

WHAT WAS LIFE REALLY LIKE INSIDE the Berlin Wall? A young Asian woman travels to the former East Germany to pursue her doctorate in the natural sciences, bringing with her an inquiring and open mind. In a series of essays and letters to her family, a unique world comes to life. The University of the Philippines Press proudly announces one of its latest releases, "From Inside the Berlin Wall," Helen Timbol-Yap's account of her life as a student living in East Germany in the 1980s.

The book presents impressions and insights into a culture depicted by the author as sometimes familiar, sometimes strange. "Life here seems to be like anywhere else. People walking their dogs… young people holding hands," she writes in one letter. In another she expresses bafflement over the Pinoy penchant for crossing streets unmindful of oncoming traffic, while in this land of sensible people, everyone waits patiently for the lights to change. In a voice sometimes breathless with awe, sometimes tinged with longing for the family she left behind, Yap engages the reader in her personal accounts and reflections on, among other things, her continued faith in socialism ("the kind of socialism Albert Einstein believed in"), as well as her new understanding and appreciation for her own culture and identity.

Another thing that makes this an unusual book is its author, Helen Timbol-Yap, is currently a professor of Marine Science. A UP graduate, she also attended the Wilhelm-Pieck University in Rostock, the German Democratic Republic. She served as two-time chair of Gesamp (Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection), an advisory group to the United Nations system, and, in 1998, was a recipient of TOWNS (The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service).

"From Inside the Berlin Wall" is available at Aeon Books in Katipunan, Popular Bookstore in T. Morato, Solidaridad, PowerBooks, National Book Store, Bound Bookshop, Fully Booked, and at the UP Press bookstores in UP Diliman, Baguio, Iloilo and Davao.



Helen T. Yap

IN THE FILM, Marie Antoinette's rumored affair with a Swedish count is also tackled.

Queen of cake rehabilitated

From page D1

by a lively soundtrack of '80s pop music such as, well, Bow Wow Wow's "I Want Candy."

But all that gives way to a more serious mood as Marie Antoinette grows up and becomes a mother. The colors are duller and take on the hues of an old photograph. The character is less frivolous and more ladylike; then up to the end when she has to face the mob, Dunst's Marie Antoinette is a grown and more intelligent woman, much softer at the edges.

Much like her first two features ("The Virgin Suicides" and "Lost in Translation"), Coppola's take on "Marie Antoinette" banks heavily on the conveyance of mood. There are no really stunning visuals, but the movie lets the viewer feel the ironical contrast in a given moment. In the rigid etiquette, there is comic relief but at the same time a suffocating awkwardness that manifests itself later when the character breaks down.

This new film is the first real effort to tell the royal couple's side to a viewing audience that otherwise would be content with what was contained in their books for European History class.

Far from being revisionist, the movie's material leans on Fraser's painstaking research. Throughout the years, Fraser has established herself as a veritable profiler of historical figures. Her other works are "Mary Queen of Scots" (winner of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize); "Cromwell: Our Chief of Men"; "The Six Wives of Henry VIII"; and "The Gunpowder Plot: Terror and Faith in 1605" (which won the St. Louis Literary Award and CWA Non-Fiction Gold Dagger).

Because of Fraser's empathy and Coppola's fresh approach, allegations and doubts regarding Marie Antoinette's story may finally be settled. If not, it's still a significant try to erasing sins committed "in liberty's name."

Acclaimed 'Trainspotting' author

ACCLAIMED CONTEMPORARY SCOTTISH novelist Irvine Welsh won fame with his 1993 novel "Trainspotting."

Welsh was born in Leith, Edinburg, on Sept. 28, 1958. His novels are set there, but not the tourist Edinburgh of Princes Street and the Royal Mile (what Welsh refers to derisively as "shortbread Disneyland")—but the geographical and metaphorical outskirts of the capital: the deprived and depressed underside of Leith.

In 1982, Welsh realized he had a drug problem. "It became a lifestyle rather than a recreation. When you start lying and stealing, you cannot control yourself, you're not in control anymore."

This experience became one of the inspirations for his most successful book. "Trainspotting," set in the mid-1980s, is an edgy comic portrait of a group of young heroin users living in Edinburgh, using a series of loosely connected short stories to tell the story of an interesting bunch of characters. This novel was adapted as a film directed by Danny Boyle, starring Ewan McGregor and Robert Carlyle, in 1996.

Welsh's books are available at PowerBooks Specialty Store which has branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428-29), Megamall (6352898-99), Alabang Town Center (8505662-63), Glorietta 3 (7527067), Shangri-La (6380024), Robinsons Place Ermita (5233334), and Mall of Asia (5560244).

VISUAL ARTS

Bagtas at Renaissance

After his successful European exhibit, Aris Bagtas has opened his second solo exhibit, "Kalakbay," at Renaissance Gallery (4/L, Megamall). A proud son of Bulacan, Bagtas depicts in naïf style men and women devotees of Obando Church in colors that capture the town's mix of merriment and bliss. Show runs until Nov. 5. Call 6373101.

"NUESTRA Señora de Salambao," by Aris Bagtas

'Hanging Out' classes at Mag:Net

Mag:Net Café (Katipunan Avenue, QC, in front of Miriam College and Ateneo) will hold "Hanging Out," a series of informal classes on art, media and special topics. Speakers are Ces Drilon (TV news writing), Koko Bermedo (drums and percussions), Cynthia Alexander (songwriting), Lav Diaz (filmmaking), Manuel Ocampo (painting), and Krip Yuson (creative writing). Classes will start Nov. 6, 4-5:30 p.m. Call 9293191 or 0917-5280716.

ARTIST Inna Naanep-Vitasa with her butterflies

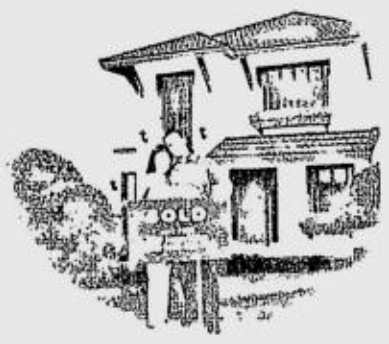
Naanep-Vitasa at 828

Inna Naanep-Vitasa will mount "Rejoice II," a show of acrylic-on-canvas works depicting butterflies, Nov. 6-14, at Gallery 828, Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong. The new works show more texture than before, and a clearer sense of movement. Although naturalistic, her works are spiritually inspired. Call 6375795.

THE LUNTIANG Daigdig Artist Group Inc. (Lunda), an environmental art group, is holding its 42nd group show, "Ani ng Sining," at the Gallery of the Social Security System (SSS) in Quezon City. On display are landscapes, seascapes, still lifes and rural-genre paintings. Photo shows SSS president Corazon de la Paz (second from left) receiving a painting donation from Solano Cruz (third from left). Also in photo are Lunda president Charles de Nava and guest of honor Sen. Alfredo Lim. Exhibit runs until tomorrow.

BANCO DE ORO

SUPER Value HOME LOAN



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(2) The option to buy the home that's right for you - Why settle for a 1- or 2-bedroom house when you'll be able to afford a 3-bedroom house with a 25-year loan. The longer loan term lets you stretch your budget and brings down your monthly payments.

(3) Why rent when you can own! - Think wisely...instead of paying rent each month, why not use the money to pay for a house that you could own! Who knows? What you used to pay for rent could very well turn out to be the same amount as your monthly amortization.

(4) Ease and convenience - Apply for the 25-Year Home Loan at any BDO branch nationwide, or BDO On-Site in SM Malls, Provincial Lending Centers, accredited developers/brokers or download an application form at www.bancodeoro.com.ph. You may also open a BDO checking or savings account for the convenience of paying your monthly amortizations.

There are enterprising Filipinos who believe in the wisdom of getting a 25-year Home Loan. Take the case of Ella, a sales executive in one of the top multinational companies. Ella says..."I am thinking about a 25-year home loan. I don't find myself in a financial situation to take on high mortgage payments." Ella took out a P1.5 million BDO SuperValue Home Loan with 1-year fixed interest for 25 years. Her monthly amortization turned out to be P13,631.00 only, which incidentally came close to the rent she used to pay monthly for a condo.

Then, there's Pamela and Julius who recently got married. Both had to stay temporarily in Pamela's parents' house while saving up for the down payment of the property they've been eyeing for the past 2 years. "We want to start exploring the housing market. We expect to be in our first place in less than five years then move up," said Julius. The couple availed of a 5-year fixed rate for a 25-year home loan from Banco de Oro. The loan perfectly fitted their budget and allowed them to move into their new home without a fuss.

Cristina and Jay, both working in private companies have fully paid the educational plan for their son Enzo. Now, they're thinking of a home loan for the construction of a house on a lot Jay acquired from his parents. "By the time we are ready to leave our children for our retirement, we can re-sell the property for a new home." They are aware that as their monthly amortization reaches its 25th year, the value of their property could very well appreciate from 3 to 5 times its value, making a BDO SuperValue Home Loan worth considering.

Rolly Tanchanco, Executive Vice President, Consumer Lending Group of Banco de Oro, champions the bank's efforts in helping Filipino families own their dream homes. Rolly says, "The 25-year Home Loan is about owning a dream home now at an amount the family can afford to pay. Home loan applicants usually decide first how long they want to pay for a loan, and hope the consequent monthly amortization is affordable. What we intend here is to reverse the customers' mindset by starting with - determing how much they can afford to pay for their dream home and we'll calculate how long, between 5 to 25 years. We plan to go further by advising them that as their financial status and cash flow improve, they can opt to either accelerate payment or shorten the loan tenor."

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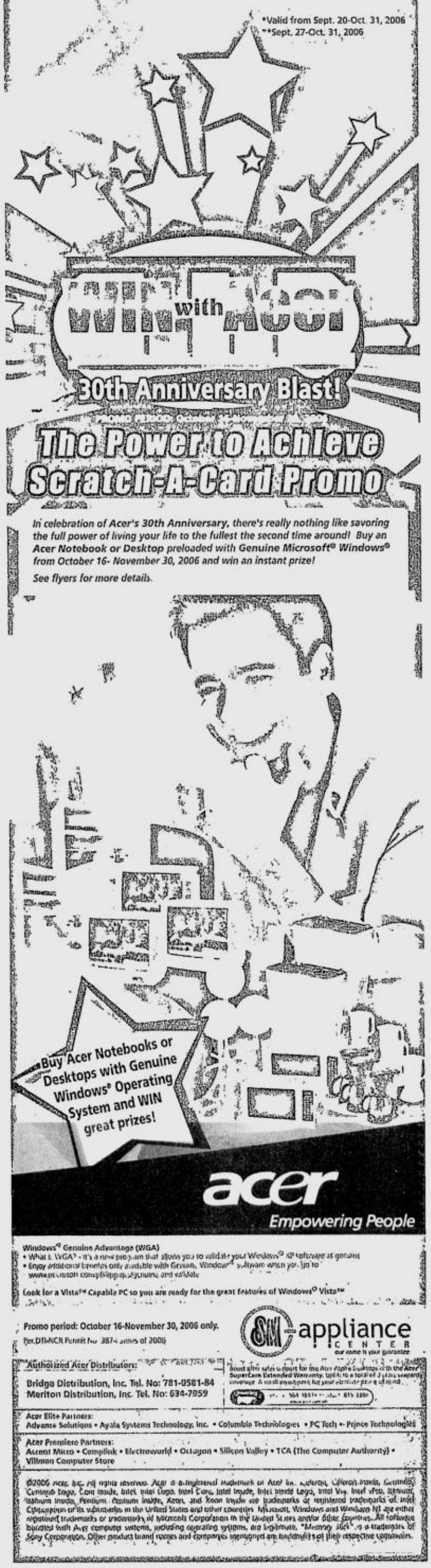

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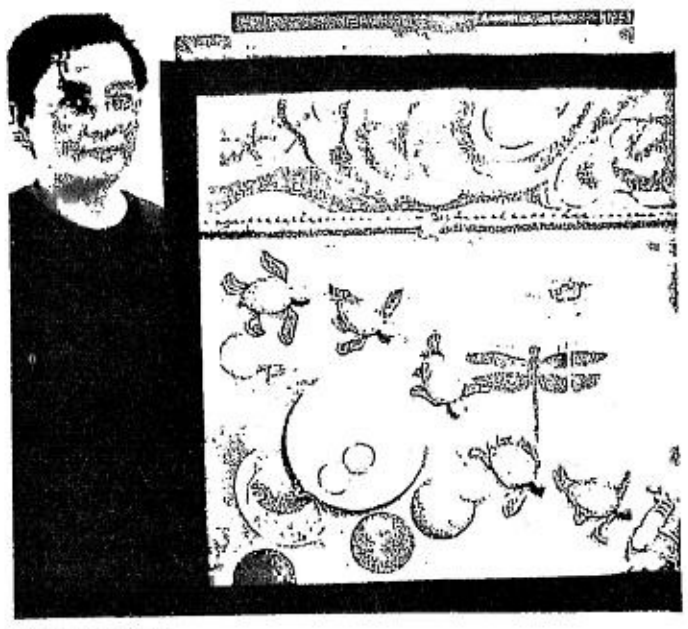
VISUAL ARTS

Kulay Marikina at Artasia

The Kulay Marikina group of artists will hold "Iba't Ibang Kulay" at Artasia (4/L, SM Megamall) Nov. 3-14. Exhibiting artists include Honey Banal, Remy Boquiren, Monn Caneza, Ige Concepcion, Chie Cruz, Cris Cruz, Ambie Flores, Armida Francisco, Luis Gabriel, Bong Golar, Jose Ibay, Ben Infante, Norlie Meimban, George Ng, Andy Pernia, Noel Rile, Roland Santos, Sheila Tiangco, Elmer Torio, Andy Urag, Tam Urao, Lisa Villasenor, and Lydia Velasco. Log on to www.artasiafineart.com.

'Agos ng Sining' at Y

Galerie Y presents the Guhit artists in "Agos ng Sining," until Nov. 7 at the Art Center, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. The theme of the exhibit is "Save the Pawikan." The show features the works of Joven Ignacio, Araceli Limcaco-Dans, Aladin Antiqueño, Angelito Baldemor, Felipe Mayoya, Azor Pazcoguin, Tito Sanchez and Janice Young. Call 6342704.



JOVEN Ignacio

"MORNING Sky, Drawing Pins," by Gail Devine

Devine at Avellana

On view at Avellana Art Gallery is Gail Devine's "Works from Down Under." Earnest in her artistic pursuits, the painter devotes loving attention on images that seem achingly real to her: a ballerina with a box for a head, a figure of a man with ample wings, two geese being fed not just by any woman but by a Polish lady. Stripped of any undercurrent of irony, the works have a literalness that is comforting. The artist brings us to a realm of half-fantasy with the other half in exhilarating color. Avellana is located at A-19, 2680 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy). Call 8338357.

"CATHOLIC School Girl," by Carlo Saavedra

Saavedra at Art Informal

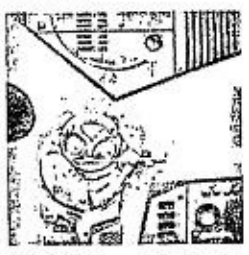
Carlo Angelo Saavedra presents "Occupants," until Nov. 8 at Art Informal (277 Connecticut St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City). The exhibit features recent series of oil on canvas, paintings of various subjects executed in highly expressionist brushwork. Call 7258518.

"DOMINION Revisited," by Tatong Recheta Torres

Torres at Hiraya

Hiraya Gallery (530 United Nations Ave., Ermita, Manila) presents an exhibit by Tatong Recheta Torres dubbed "Dominion," until Oct. 31. Tatong's works in watercolor display a panorama of the subliminal greed for power over life and death without the dread and darkness of ghoulic horror. The exhibit also highlights the artist's talent in figurative drawings. Call 5233331 or 5232001.

"CHILD at Play," by Caloy Gabuco



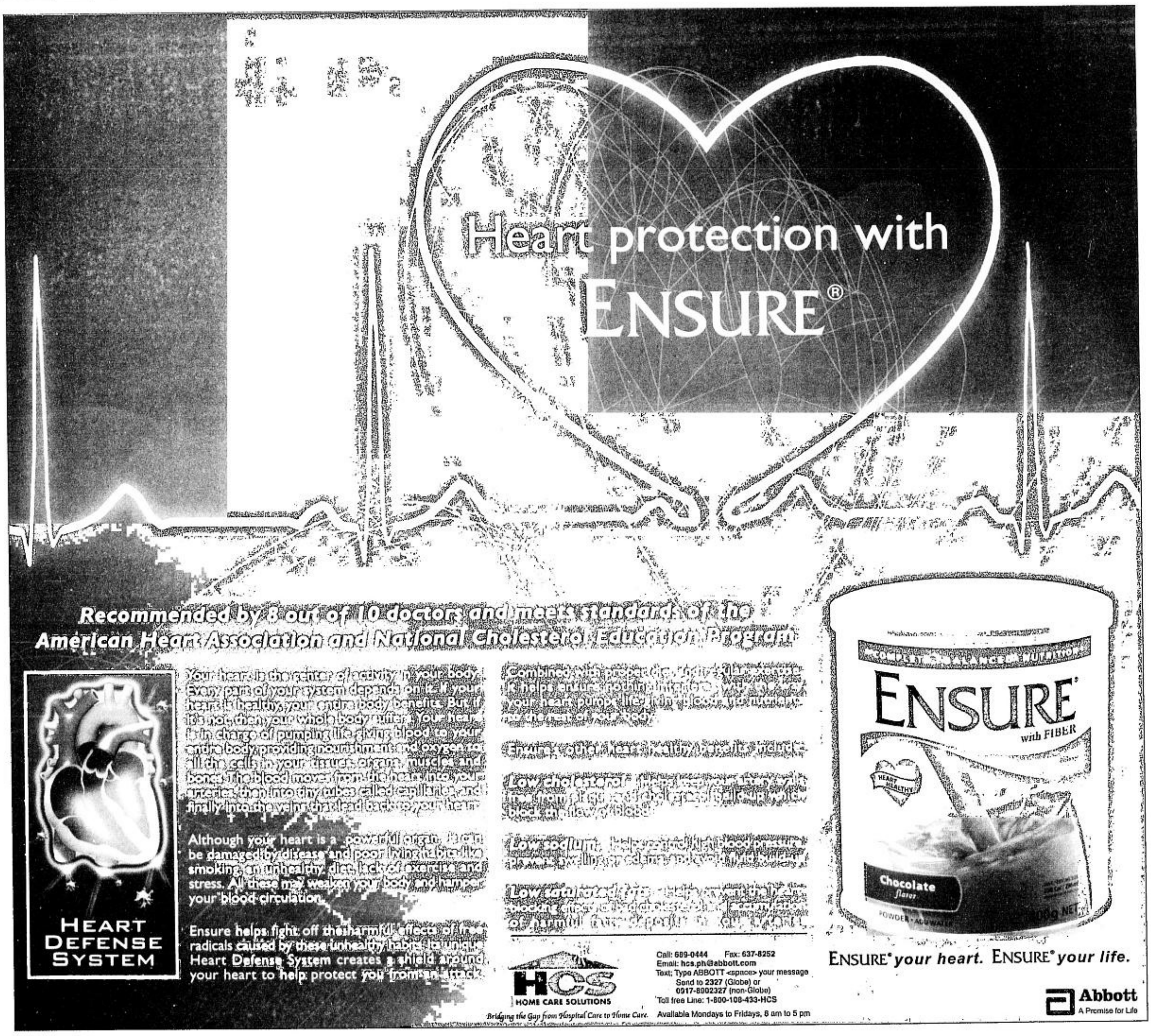
"RED Tune," by Buds Convocar

'Obra' at Choice Expression

"Obra," an exhibit by the Pintanaw Art Group, is on view at Choice Expression Gallery (Doña Consolacion Bldg., Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati). Participating artists are Omi Reyes, Caloy Gabuco, Noel Catacutan, Melencio Sapnu, Danny Santiago, Lino Acasio, Buds Convocar, Jimmy Kwong, Fred Ramirez, Eliezer Dimaculangan and Antonio Bandalan. The show runs until Nov. 17. Call 8991708.

"PAG-UWI ni Ina," by Lino Acasio

VISUAL ARTS/ D3



Monique, Menchu and the sound of Maria

Two of the country's finest theater actresses are taking turns playing Maria Von Trapp in Rep's revival of 'The Sound of Music'

By Gibbs Cadiz

MENCHU LAUCHENGCO-Yulo was 17 and Monique Wilson was 10 when they first appeared together in Repertory Philippines' 1980 production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music."

That production takes on a near-legendary sheen when you consider the star wattage that went into it. Playing Maria Von Trapp, the role made world-famous by Julie Andrews in the film of the same name, was Baby Barredo. Chito Ponce Enrile was Captain Von Trapp. Irma Potenciano was the Mother Abbess. Baroness Schraeder was Celia Diaz-Laurel.

Audie Gemora played Rolf, Freddie Santos was Max Detweiler (the impresario who got the Von Trapp family singing in public), and the ensemble included Roselyn Perez, Terry Wilson, Enchang Agudo Kaimo and Paul Holme.

Aside from Lauchengco-Yulo and Wilson, the Captain's seven children included Raymund Lauchengco (then 14), Lea Salonga (9), Risa Hontiveros (also 14, now the feisty party-list congresswoman), Javier Arriaga and Angela Adams.

MONIQUE Wilson (left) and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo (second from right) with other cast members of "The Sound of Music": (seated) Audie Gemora and Michael Williams; (standing) Pinky Marquez, Camille Lopez, Cherie Gil and Rina Reyes

THE 1980 CAST of "The Sound of Music": Chito Ponce Enrile as Captain Von Trapp, Baby Barredo as Maria, with (from left) Angela Adams, Lea Salonga, Risa Hontiveros, Javier Arriaga, Raymond Lauchengco, Monique Wilson and Menchu Lauchengco

"We had 15-18 performances at the Meralco Theater," Lauchengco-Yulo recalls. "We had no lapel mikes on, the mikes were hanging from the ceiling, and we were singing with a full orchestra! So we had to belt our heads off, and Tita Bibot (Amador, the late founding artistic director of Rep) would scream at us, 'I cannot hear you!'"

The kids also made the rounds of TV stations to promote the show. They performed on the noontime program "Student Canteen" (which says a lot about the sea change that has engulfed pop culture; imagine an English theater group appearing on "Eat Bulaga!" or "Wowowee" today) and on the late-afternoon show "Discorama," among others.

Full circle

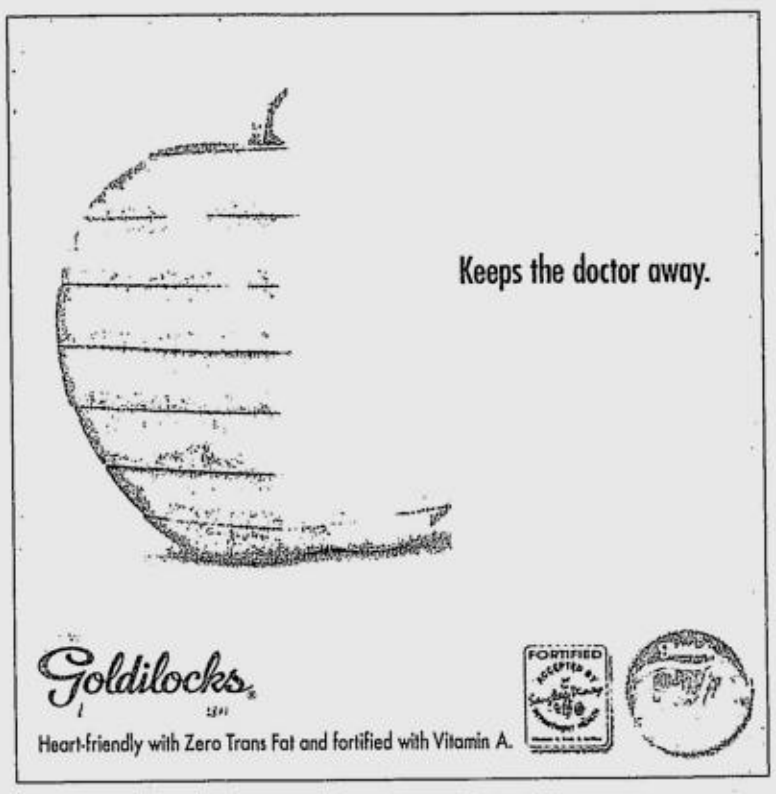
Seventeen years later, Wilson and Lauchengco-Yulo are about to come full circle by alternating in the role of Maria in Rep's revival of "The Sound of Music," set to run Nov. 11-Dec. 17 at Rep's Globe Theater at Onstage, Greenbelt 1.

Liesl, the part played by Lauchengco-Yulo in the 1980 show, will now be played by three young actresses, one of them Lauchengco-Yulo's own daughter.

Gemora, once Rolf, is now Captain Von Trapp, alternating with Michael Williams, while Miguel Faustmann and Bonggoy Manahan take turns as Max.

In a further case of generational symmetry, the role of Sister Margaretta, the strict nun, will be

MONIQUE/ E2



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They feel the body electric

Monique Wilson, Pinky Amador and Juno Henares star in the New Voice Company's production of Eve Ensler's 'The Good Body'

By Jerome Gomez
Contributor

MONIQUE WILSON WILL PASS ON THE salad and will have the pasta instead, at least for today's lunch at Sala on Nakpil Street in Malate.

We are on the subject of her body, her breasts in particular. Many years back, she recalls, after her "Miss Saigon" stint, she was offered by Viva Films big boss Vic del Rosario the lead role in the remake of "Ang Pinakamagandang Hayop sa Balat ng Lupa." In the original movie, the most memorable scene was that of a nubile Gloria Diaz riding a horse wearing only a flimsy *kamisa*.

"How can I do that?" Monique asked then. "They didn't realize I was flat-chested. *Sabi nila*, 'They'll just put balloons na *lang* in your costume.' '*Ha*? That's so fake!' How degrading is that to be at Annabelle's Restaurant and everyone's talking about your lack of breasts?"

The 36-year-old theater actress, still admittedly flat-chested, is gamely airing out her personal body issues for her New Voice Company's latest project, "The Good Body," Eve Ensler's new collection of monologues about women's tortured relationships with weight, body image and self-acceptance.

While reviews were unanimous in saying the new Ensler piece is not as compelling as her wildly popular and groundbreaking "Vagina Monologues," "The Good Body" was nevertheless met with praises when it opened on Broadway two years ago.

JUNO Henares, Pinky Amador and Monique Wilson in New Voice Company's "The Good Body," written by Eve Ensler and directed by Rito Asilo

The New York Times called it "forthrightly funny, bristling with wisecracks and exotically harvested snippets of wisdom." The critics were in agreement, too, that, like "Vagina," this one was uplifting, inspirational and empowering to women.

Trio version

The play was originally a one-woman-show, with Ensler portraying the various characters, famous and obscure, from Helen Gurley Brown to an African-American girl at a fat camp, in a minimalist stage not unlike that of "Vagina." Monique is proud to announce that the Nov. 10-11 performances at the Music Museum will be the world premiere of the "trio version," reworked by Ensler to accommodate two other actresses.

Monique will be joined by Pinky Amador (who plays Ensler) and Juno Henares, whom she both met at Repertory Philippines back in the days of "A Chorus Line." Pinky played Judy and wore white tights so her legs would look fuller. Monique played Maggie and had to stuff her flat chest with socks. Juno was Cassie, who was then, to use her own words, "just perfect."

"At one point, we all have issues with our body, *kahit na sabihin mong* feminist *ka*, empowered *ka*, you are pressured to look a certain way," says Monique, who, these days, is Pinky's gym buddy, and is allowing herself to eat carbs to supply her with energy for her next role—Maria in Rep's upcoming "The Sound of Music."

Five characters

For "The Good Body," Monique is tasked to do five characters, among them a model who secretly keeps eating sweets so she can continue to hold the attention of the plastic surgeon she married; a woman who undergoes vaginaplasty as a birthday gift to her husband; and Cosmopolitan editor Brown, who at 80 is still addicted to doing sit-ups and has barely recovered from what her mom told her as a kid: that she will never be as pretty as her sister.

The last one resonates quite profoundly with Monique, who, although privileged to have grown up with "cool parents" who valued talent and education over looks, had an aunt who used to tell her she didn't look as good as her siblings.

"She would tell me, 'Don't worry, you're an ugly duckling now but, when you grow up, you'll be a swan.' And then when I grew up, people would say *naman*, '*Buti na lang nagbago na 'yung mukha mo*.'"

Her aunt's words thankfully did not leave a bruise as acute as those on the women she plays in "The Good Body." The pressures she eventually encountered in her career as an actress she now recalls with good humor: people constantly telling her to lose weight; Pinoy fans at the airport who would pinch her cheeks and shriek, "Moniiiique, *ang taba mo*!"

Like the women in the play, Monique is finally putting all her body issues on the table.

"Even when I was younger, Tita Bibot (Zenaida Amador, her mentor at Repertory) would always ask me to play these characters way older than me, so I was already wearing padded bras onstage at the age of 13."

In her most famous stage role, that of Kim in "Miss Saigon," she wore padded bras to play the 17-year-old Vietnamese prostitute. In one performance, she accidentally fell flat on her chest, which alarmed her audience. Monique, however, didn't feel a thing.

"I've survived all that without doing anything, so why do it now?" she says, when asked if she would ever consider breast augmentation, or any of the hundreds of the available Belo procedures.

"What I've always known as an artist is that I'm fit for some roles and for some I'm not. On that account, I have a lot of self-acceptance."

As if on cue, a sinful-looking dessert of mango and passion-fruit pavlova lands on the center of the table.

"Oh my God," Monique gasps and looks away.

Monique, Menchu and the sound of Maria

From page E1

reprised by Joy Virata, who played the part in 1980.

The Mother Abbess' operatic pipes, meanwhile, will be provided by Camille Lopez and Pinky Marquez. The role of the glamorous Baroness goes on some nights to former movie actress Rina Reyes, a Rep alumna herself, and on some nights to Cherie Gil.

"Isn't Cherie fabulous?" exclaims Wilson. "She's just perfect! She just walks in all so glamorous and regal, and *parang* we look so dowdy *na*! We don't have to act anymore, she really intimidates us!"

Which is quite surprising to hear from this actress, who, at 36, has become one of the country's undisputed pillars of the stage. Wilson's resumé of onstage and offstage accomplishments here and abroad are daunting (simultaneous with "The Sound of Music," she's also doing Eve Ensler's "The Good Body" for New Voice Company. *See story above*). She attributes much of that drive and her success to Rep's extensive training.

"I remember that, in our 1980 show, we kids had to sing a difficult version of 'The Sound of Music'—the a cappella version with the three-part harmony," she recalls.

"All it took was for Tita Bibot to scream, 'I'm gonna fire all of you tonight!' and we learned it. We were in Roper's Studio for our pictorial and we were all crying because she said we were all going to be fired! Menchu, who was our *ate* then, brought us to the corner and told us, 'We have to practice, we have to practice!' That night, during rehearsals, we were so nervous, but we got it! It was only later on I realized, *nag*-pictorial *na tayo e, di na niya tayo pwede i*-fire!"

Call it tough love, especially for kids barely out of their puberty, but both Wilson and Lauchengco-Yulo look back with fondness to Amador and Barredo's uncompromising standards as the crucible that steeled them to excel as artists and individuals.

"More and more, we're realizing as we get older that all those hard years when we were kids and they were so hard on us, it's really what prepared us for what we're doing now. Tita Bibot and Tita Baby didn't excuse us because we were kids. She treated us like adults, and so we rose to that. We got the best out of them and their example. I mean, Tita Baby had bronchitis during the opening of 'The Sound of Music,' but she finished the show! That was how it was," says Lauchengco-Yulo, at 43 the country's leading musical-theater actress.

Different version

Barredo, who played Maria twice (in the 1975 and 1980 seasons), is directing this new production based not on the movie but on the original Broadway musical which starred Mary Martin. However, some changes incorporated into the film and a 1998 revival headlined by Rebecca Luker have been added, including the songs "I Have Confidence" and "Something Good," which were not in the original version.

Wilson and Lauchengco-Yulo agree that playing the same character doesn't mean ending up as carbon copies of each other.

"For sure you will see two different interpretations, because we're two different performers. But, of course, the similarities will be there, too, because it's the same character and we can't deviate too much from that," says Lauchengco-Yulo.

"What you will see," says Wilson, "is her indomitable spirit. I just read her biography, and she's really amazing. She had so much positive energy, and she was the one who strengthened and kept that family intact. That's what we would like to capture—how she was such a unique individual."

Or, as Lauchengco-Yulo puts it, "she was a nun with balls."

On top of the challenge of playing an iconic character like Maria, these two actresses also relish the chance to mentor and perform onstage with (as of last count) 21 children who make up three sets of the Captain's kids, whom they will have to shepherd in 40 performances.

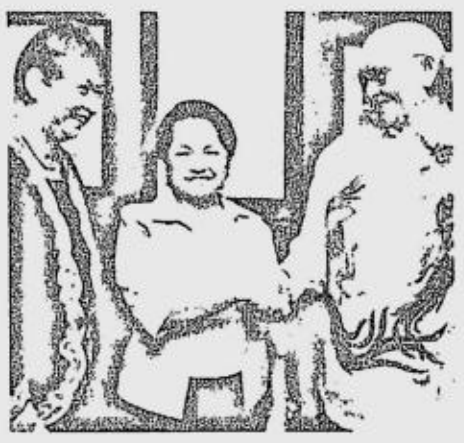
Finally, this "Sound of Music" is also a long-dreamed-of reunion for Wilson, Lauchengco-Yulo and their Rep peers.

"This is really our batch—Michael, Audie, me and Monique, plus Enchang Agudo Kaimo, Freddie Santos, Junix Inocian, Juno Henares, Pinky Amador, Cocoy Laurel, Bart Guingona, Jaime del Mundo, and Lea, except Lea left early when she went to the movies," says Lauchengco-Yulo.

"Every year, we've been looking for a production where all of us can work together. So, for the four of us—Menchu, me, Audie and Michael—doing 'The Sound of Music' is a dream come true," says Wilson.

Rep's "The Sound of Music" runs Nov. 11-Dec. 17 at Onstage Theater, Greenbelt 1. Call 8870710/8919999.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph, visit www.gibbscadiz.com



Roces play wins Aliw

National Artist for Literature Dr. Alejandro R. Roces and executive director Cecile Guidote Alvarez of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts are congratulated by President Macapagal-Arroyo for winning the Aliw Awards' best musical and best direction for Roces' modern *zarzuela*, "Something to Crow About." The *zarzuela* has been invited and booked to perform in New York City at La Mama Theater by the Off-Broadway doyenne Ellen Stewart in June 2007 in time for Philippine Independence Day. There are also invitations from Buffalo, Los Angeles and Hawaii. The play is a co-production of Dialect-Unesco-Philippine Center for International Theater Institute/Earthsavers DREAMS Ensemble and the UST Conservatory of Music.

Indie films conquer Mindanao

Students of the Mindanao State University System and from other Iligan schools savor a new species of Filipino movies

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
Contributor

IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO dream of a vital Philippine cinema that, ideally, will not know painful compromises for commercial gain.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) Outreach Program might not be able to compete with what complex system of distribution commercial film outfits practice, but the CCP and its affiliate sponsors of indies can't go wrong in knocking on the doors of academe.

Impressionable minds with the guidance of their professors might as well be the potent force to change the taste of a future movie-going public.

Mindanao students recently showed a high level of awareness of independent films, which included Byron Bryant's "Baryoke," Alfred Aloysius Adlawan's "Room Boy," Emmanuel de la Cruz's "Sarong Banggi," Clodualdo del Mundo Jr.'s "Pepot Artista" (represented by producer Mike Lim), the short film "Babae" by Sigrid Andrea Bernardo and the runaway favorite, Michiko Yamamoto's "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," directed by Auraeus Solito.

Students of Mindanao State University System and other Iligan schools were picky with the lineup of indie films screened 8 a.m.-9 p.m. in separate venues on the MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology campus Sept. 18-19.

Aside from the well-applauded "Sarong Banggi," students mobbed "Pagdadalaga," the country's entry to this year's Oscars for Best Foreign Language Film. Hundreds queued in the rain before "Pagdadalaga's" screening at the gymnasium.

Beyond the obvious theme of love and care for another, the movie's defamiliarization of life's routines, such as Maximo doing household chores, was enough to put one on edge while watching.

What is more familiar than measuring rice for cooking? The difference is Maximo's sudden realization that his habitual pouring of four milk tins of rice into the pot must stop at three to represent the surviving members of a family whose ordinary fare had always been crime.

The dreaded screams, heavy dialogue and meaningless silences in most commercial films were happily absent here.

STUDENTS at the minitheater

Complex theme

Bryant's lengthy "Baryoke" dealt with a complex theme anchored on a videoke machine. Painted a hot pink with the phallic symbol of a microphone in the middle, the contraption changed many lives in a barrio and also awakened in its women some secret aspirations.

Men will be men, and I wondered all along how a male writer and director like Bryant would treat his female characters. Sure enough, Bryant is the next director to watch with his poetic renderings of local color and his treatments of self-righteous women and of long-suffering wives within the traditional Tagalog culture of machismo and speakeasy society.

TAKING in the sea at Opol, Misamis Oriental: Eman de la Cruz, Sigrid Bernardo, Mike Lim and Aloysius Adlawan

PHOTOS BY FAIZAL CATONG

The best portrayal of all, of course, is that of the barrio whore whose feistiness and instinctive good sense allowed her to survive a hostile environment. Hopefully, her pastor-lover who loved sex over his ministry would help her work for her redemption.

If the irony-filled "Baryoke" tackled personal and environmental issues, Adlawan's focused portrayal of a good man and a woman of strength in "Room Boy" was remarkable.

A cigarette-puffing actor in a movie has always been a powerful image, disregarding, alas, health concerns. Yet in "Room Boy," its use as metaphor for make-believe was refreshing.

Melba's puffing on unlighted cigarettes exemplified a modern preoccupation of fiction and reality, contrasting with Luis' literal interpretation of keeping to his word, having been a one-time honored Boy Scout until faced with his own epiphany.

Among the indies, the quest story and the use of metaphor and irony came on strong. For instance, Bernardo's "Babae" contrasts the image of a *kargador* with an impaled doll over train tracks and nude Barbies on the sleeping mat—Bernardo's statements of lives lived without the gloss.

Iligan's film festival, in the end, was a fun-filled experience, especially for my own hardworking student-team composed of MSU-IIT College of Arts and Social Sciences student leaders, Joyce Adlawan, Jezreel Faith Montes, Dennis Rey Abas, Alyn Tolero, Ma. Darmiell del Castillo, Diana Sorongon and Faizal Catong.

Among other things, we witnessed the filmmakers' humility in conducting a room-to-room campaign for Mindanao students to support indies, and, with their easy banter, sending the message that, with a great audience, dreams work.

Landmark opera

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

EASILY ONE OF THE UPLIFTING MOMENTS on Manila's music scene after Typhoon "Milenyo" ravaged Metro Manila was the Philippine premiere of Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin."

The opera was all set to open on the day the typhoon struck and you can imagine the cast's surprise when after the full run minus the media (nobody dared go to the CCP Thursday night with a metropolis rendered without electricity), they found a city in ruins.

"Onegin" was reset a week later with four performances (three evening performances and a Saturday matinee) and the opera was a welcome respite for the typhoon-ravaged metropolis.

On its opening night, the standouts were the Tatyana of Rachelle Gerodias, the Onegin of Andrew Fernando, the Olga of Clarissa Ocampo and the Triquet of Lemuel de la Cruz (the latter was not heard by the Saturday gala-night audience who heard Eugene de los Santos).

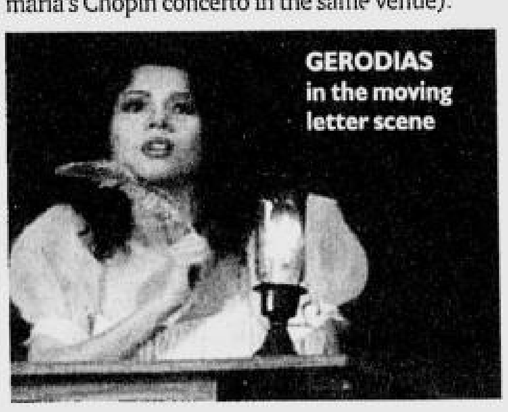
Gerodias dominated the Thursday and Saturday night performances with a powerful and well-delineated letter scene. Fernando's solid voice was worthy of the title role. Clarissa Ocampo stood out in the first act because she sang beautifully as she acted with fervor. Nenen Espina's Filippyevna was engaging in all the four performances.

EUGENE Onegin (Andrew Fernando) and Tatyana (Rachelle Gerodias) in the penultimate scene

Lemuel's short appearance in the ballroom scene as Triquet was unforgettable. The acting was real and the singing was simply ravishing. I was disappointed not to hear him of the gala night.

Noel Azcona and Thea Perez had excellent chemistry in a matinee performance; they were both vocally and visually appealing. Ronan Ferrer's Lenski was tender and full of emotion. Randy Gilongo didn't have the visual appeal of Ferrer but he shone vocally in the superbly sung Lenski's aria before the duel scene.

All throughout the four performances, the role of the peasant leader solidly sung by Jonathan Coo was a big revelation (yes, he was the pianist who played Mozart's C Major Sonata at the Francisco Santiago Hall and conducted Ingrid Santamaria's Chopin concerto in the same venue).



GERODIAS in the moving letter scene

The stunning set and costume design of Gino Gonzales set the mood of the opera and was enhanced by the very imaginative lighting of Monino Duque. The ballroom scenes dazzled with the dance numbers staged by Vella Damian's dance company.

Director Floy Quintos allowed the music to dominate the opera and his was a directorial triumph in story-telling.

Conductor Hermie Ranera was in good command of the music and the singers and the UST Symphony Orchestra lived up to the challenge of a professional opera accompanist.

At the gala night, former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos ran out of words to describe the Filipino talents who stood out in Onegin.

This landmark production was initiated by the UST Conservatory of Music led by Dean Raul Sunico as part of the highlights of the celebration of the quadricentennial of the University of Santo Tomas.

Musical childhood

What I'd consider the autobiography of the decade is Gilda Cordero Fernando's "The Last Full Moon: Lessons On My Life." From that book, I learned that the family owned an upright piano in the first family residence along Barbosa St. in Quiapo; that Gilda's father played the flute; that one of the family's tenants was no other than the great violin teacher and conductor Bonifacio Abdon; that Gilda danced at the Manila Metropolitan Theater in the ballet class recital of National Artist Leonor Orosa Goquingco before the place was bombed.

Gilda's evolution as short-story writer, wife, mother, book publisher, theater producer and grandmother is fascinating and full of candor.

By the way, Gilda was one of the recipients of the Quezon City Lifetime Achievement Award, along with pianist Cecile Licad and environmentalist Odette Alcantara, given by Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte on the occasion of the city's 67th founding anniversary.

Makiling school damaged

One of the least known casualties of "Milenyo" is the Philippine High School for the Arts in Mt. Makiling in Los Banos, Laguna. The school was without water and power for almost a month (the water system was destroyed), the ballet studio was buried by soil erosion, the arts scholars were stranded without water and food, and the roads to the school were rendered impassable.

After the typhoon, the students had to walk five kilometers to get to their rented bus. Even the school bus was damaged.

Dulce, Gonzaga team up

Singer Dulce, whose last appearance with the Philippine Philharmonic ended in a standing ovation, is excited over her first team up with international tenor and fellow Visayan Otoniel Gonzaga (Dulce, a two-time grand-prize winner of the Asian Singing Competition in Hong Kong, is from Cebu while Gonzaga is from Iloilo).

The Cebuana singer will sing songs from "Cats" ("Memory") and "Sunset Boulevard" ("One Last Look At You").

The two will be heard for the first time in the opening of the Great Performance Series at the Philamlife Theater on Dec. 9 with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Rodel Colmenar.

Guest artists include sopranos Rachelle Gerodias and Camille Lopez-Molina and flutist Christopher Oracion, two-time winner of the National Music Competition for Young Artists.

Gerodias, who just came from another Singapore engagement after her wildly received Tatyana, will reprise the letter scene from "Eugene Onegin" in the Dec. 9 Philamlife gala concert. For tickets to remaining last few seats, call 9007023 or cell 0906-5104270.

The UST Conservatory's 'Eugene Onegin' is an uplifting musical moment in a city ravaged by 'Milenyo'

RONAN Ferrer and Noel Azcona in matinee performance

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'El Fili' from Gantimpala

GANTIMPALA THEATER FOUNDATION (GTF), in cooperation with the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC), presents "El Filibusterismo," a dramatization of José Rizal's second installment to his first novel, "Noli Me Tangere."

GTF's stage presentation is intended for high-school students taking up the subject, and is designed to help them understand the lessons of this masterwork by the national hero.

The Actors Company performers are Roeder Camañag, Dido dela Paz, Jorge Cabullo, Perry Escaño, Perry Dizon, Vangie Inocencio, Lani Tapia, Jojit Lorenzo, Nelia Aguado, Billy Parjan, Francis Ong, Lailanie Ann Tejuco, Chiqui Xerez Burgos, Allan Talatala, Julius Empredo, Bong Embile Jr., Abel Napuran, Penny Mervic Galido and Yutaka Yamakawa Jr.

Direction is by Soxie Topacio, production design by Roobak Valle and lights design by Andy Villareal. Alice Borbe is the production manager and Maricel Ticar-Santos the stage manager. Tony S. Espejo is GTF artistic director.

Performances are on these dates and venues: Nov. 5, 6 p.m., Concert at the Park, Open Air Auditorium, Luneta Park Manila; Nov. 10-12 and Nov. 17-19, 9 a.m. and 12 nn, AFP Theater, Edsa; Nov. 24-26, 9 a.m. and 12 nn, SM Southmall, Las Piñas.

Call 8995745/8963503.

We often do not think about our sinuses until we have problems with them.

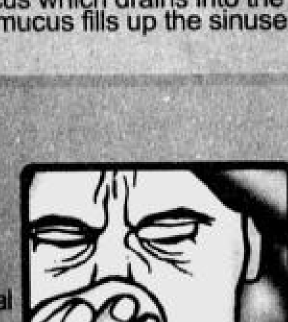
What are Sinuses?

Sinuses are hollow chambers within the bones of your face and head. Four pairs of sinuses produce mucus which drains into the nose. If the small openings get blocked, mucus fills up the sinuses and infection can result.

What is Sinusitis?

Sinusitis is an infection of the nose and sinuses usually lasting more than seven days characterized by thick yellow to greenish nasal discharge and posterior nasal drip.

Sinusitis starts with the impairment of normal drainage and ventilation of the sinuses. These may result from a common cold, allergy, a deviated nasal septum, nasal polyps, tumor and foreign bodies among others. This results to obstruction of the sinus opening and retained secretions leading to bacterial overgrowth.



Email any question about the nose, ear and throat to allerin_decolgen@yahoo.com or text to 0917-8732509 and get a free nose, ear and throat gift pack from Unilab, makers of Decolgen. Hurry, offer good while supplies last.

What are the signs and symptoms of Sinusitis?

The following signs and symptoms may be present:

- Greenish/yellowish nasal and post nasal discharge
- Nasal congestion
- Sinus headache and facial pain
- Pain or pressure over the sinuses
- Pain around the eyes
- Fever
- Loss or decreased sense of smell

If you have the signs and symptoms of sinusitis, see your ENT (ear, nose and throat) doctor. Your ENT doctor will perform a complete ENT examination and may request for x-rays or CT Scan of the sinuses.

In healthy sinuses, air circulates freely and a thin layer of mucus drains from the sinuses to the nose. The goal of medical and surgical therapy is to treat the infection, clear blocked nasal passages, and re-establish air circulation and mucus drainage.

Your ENT doctor will provide appropriate treatment of your Sinusitis. Initial therapy includes antibiotics. Decongestants, mucolytics, analgesics, saline irrigation and other medications can be administered. Surgery may be indicated once adequate medical management has failed.

It is important to treat the underlying cause of your sinus problems. To avoid developing sinusitis during a cold or an allergy attack, the following can be done :

- *Take an oral decongestant*
- *Take antihistamines if with allergy*
- *Gently blow your nose*
- *Drink plenty of fluids to keep nasal discharge thin*
- *Avoid air travel. If you must fly, use an oral decongestant before takeoff to prevent blockage of the sinuses.*

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If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

'Prestige' casts a spell

By Eldric Paul A. Peredo
Contributor

AT MAGIC SHOWS, there's always that nagging question whether everything is real or the audience merely hasn't watched closely. But then, the success of each trick that has ever been performed is that the audience does not quite catch on to how it is done.

All hints lead to a dead end. Depending on the package, the illusions can be a source of either amazement, even inspiration, or a paralyzing fear of power of possibly dark origin.

According to Cutter, the magician's ingeneur (one who designs illusions behind the scenes, played by Michael Caine) in Warner Bros. and Touchstone Pictures' "The Prestige," every great feat of magic is composed of three parts: the Pledge, where the magician shows you the ordinary subject of the trick; the Turn, where he works his power on the ordinary thing and does something out of the ordinary to it; and finally, the Prestige, the magician's resolution, when he must return to right whatever it was that he calculatedly made to go awry.

HUGH Jackman as Robert Angier

CHRISTIAN Bale as Alfred Borden

MICHAEL Caine (Cutter), Scarlett Johansson (Olivia Wenscombe) and Jackman

Pledge

In turn-of-the-century London, occupying the upper echelons of culture along with operas and theatrical plays were magicians' shows. The magicians themselves were society icons, even as they were images of secretive eccentricity and reclusion. Against this backdrop, "The Prestige" presents the lives of two men at the heart of the trade.

Robert Angier (Hugh Jackman) is in it for the applause. "It is the look on the people's faces," he says, that drives him to do magic. His bitter rival, Alfred Borden (Christian Bale), meanwhile, is a devil-daring purist but who cannot sell his apparently better talent as effectively as Angier does his run-of-the-mill wares.

Their rivalry is sparked by the death of Angier's wife Julia (Piper Perabo), a magician's assistant, after an accident in an act where the two men are likewise involved as stagehands. Much like businessmen out to destroy each other's enterprise, the two magicians proceed to spy on each other and in the process find more and more violent ways of sabotage.

Assisted by the ingeneur (Michael Caine), however, Angier rises to the top of the popularity heap with ditzy selling, and with the beautiful and equally flashy Olivia (Scarlett Johansson) as his assistant.

That is, until Borden performs the ultimate magic trick.

Obsessed with copying the act and selling it with more flair—and at a profit, too—Angier transforms the contest into a bloody battle for recognition as London's greatest ever magician. It is no longer a matter of performance, but revenge, and ultimately, survival before increasingly displeased crowds as well as in their lives.

Turn

Structured like a three-part magic performance, the movie draws the audience into the lives of and at times fatal rivalry between Angier and Borden through flashbacks, before finally catching them up to a prospective fashion when the movie goes into its "prestige" phase.

> In turn-of-century London, magicians occupy the upper echelons of culture with artists of opera and drama

Based on a novel of the same title by Christopher Priest, "Prestige" is a jaw-clenching act of ceaselessly conflicting forces which leaves the audience at a loss as to which side to render allegiance to.

And if the names above are not ominous enough, acclaimed filmmaker Christopher Nolan, who gave us the dark and brooding "Insomnia," "Memento," and "Batman Begins," is the man at center stage, in his element with the cinematic misdirection, assisted by no less than a superb cast and crew.

But "Prestige" is not a movie about magic. Nolan's fifth feature (the first was the highly praised "Following" in 1998) continues the director's penchant for a story line that, much like his previous works, is heady with twists and deals with shadowy conflicts.

Jackman, an accomplished actor with gentlemanly finesse, morphs before viewers' eyes into the showman Angier. The lengths to which he goes just to upstage and destroy Borden betray a crippling insecurity despite an otherwise successful career.

Bale's Borden, meanwhile, is a study in damaged perfectionism—he absolutely commits to his craft even at the cost of his marital life.

The story, therefore, does not allow for any clear definitions. Viewers might initially choose their anti-heroes from the two lead characters, but the fact is, both may also be heroes in the way they lead their respective lives. The other way is also quite possible.

This then, more than any trick in the movie, is properly its turn: the characters' frequent and relative transformation before viewers, who will probably be left in a quandary as to who to brand the bad guy, or as to who will ultimately win. Credit that to a great script care of Nolan and his brother Jonathan, his collaborator.

CAINE as the ingeneur

Prestige

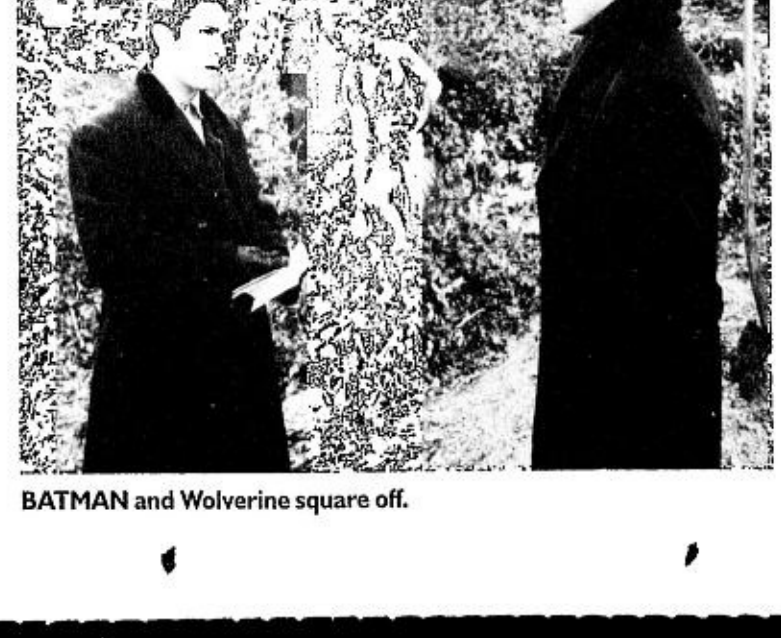
Unfortunately, like a magic act, the movie's secrets cannot be entirely revealed. If unveiled, they will render the movie too simple and predictable.

Note, however, a short but pivotal role: that of scientist Nikola Tesla (rock icon David Bowie), historically known for his own rivalry with Thomas Edison. Tesla was reputedly pushing the boundaries of science in his heyday, and was rumored to have experimented with robots and matter transporters.

But that's only insofar as Angier is concerned. Borden's prestige is much more complicated, and yes, that translates into so much more simplicity when the secret is revealed.

In the end, however, it is not the secrets that entertain. "The Prestige" precisely leads viewers to conclude that everything has been righted, the halves put together, the disappeared returned to flesh, but not revealing how all of it has come to pass.

Because, at last, the success of each trick lies in the audience not quite catching on. And like each trick, "Prestige" must leave that nagging question on whether the audience merely did not watch closely.



BALE as Alfred Borden performing a magic trick

BATMAN and Wolverine square off.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Cannes fest exec heads Cinemanila jury

By Marinel R. Cruz

CHRISTIAN JEUNE, DIRECTOR of the film department and deputy artistic delegate of the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, will sit as jury chair of the 8th Cinemanila International Film Festival's Digital Lokal Competition. The 13-day festival starts this week.

Jeune's work for the annual festival in the south of France involves choosing entries for the Cannes film fest's Competition, Un Certain Regard, Cinéfondation, and Short Films sections as well as communicating with producers, directors and other film commissions.

The Frenchman has also translated more than 100 English films to French, according to a statement from the Cinemanila organizing committee.

Six feature films will compete for the Lino Brocka Award in this year's Digital Lokal section.

Roberto Bonifacio Jr.'s "Numbalik-Diwa," with Maricel Soriano, Albert Martinez, Meryll Soriano and Ping Medina, tells the story of couple Karissa and Carlos and the ancient ritual on life and immortality called *numbalik-diwa*.

Briccio Santos and Raya Martin's "Anino ng Setyembre" presents the story of young real estate broker Sarah (Alessandra de Rossi) forced to leave for the US during the Martial Law regime. Upon her return, she acquires a mysterious camera that reveals unseen crimes that began on that fateful day in September 1972.

"Squatterpunk" is an "ode to joy amidst poverty," according to its director Khavn dela Cruz. Set in the slums of Manila, it follows the lives of children who scavenge for garbage for a living.

BRILLANTE Mendoza (right) directs his Aeta star

Lawrence Fajardo's "Raket ni Nanay" features former bold star Sarsi Emmanuel as an aging nude model and Mark Gil as her manipulative partner. Fajardo describes it as "a story of revenge and redemption."

Ato Bautista, Shugo Pracio and Jason Donato's three-days-in-the-making "Gamot sa Pagkabagot" revolves around the lives of three characters: a child coping with "lies, perversion and abuse"; a killer hiding in the mountains; and a woman running away from the ghost of her twin sister.

Brillante Mendoza's "Manoro" tells the struggles of a 13-year-old Aeta named Jonalyn, who teaches middle-aged and elderly townsfolk to read and write in order for them to cast their votes in the national elections.

The Cinemanila film fest, which will showcase 75 full-length films from 35 countries in various sections, will be held from Nov. 3 to 15 at SM Cinemas (Megamall, North Edsa, Mall of Asia), Ayala Greenbelt Cinemas (Makati) and the NCCA Auditorium (Intramuros, Manila). This years's theme is "Buhay na ang Global Pinoy Cinema."

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'Sis' says sorry

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

NOW IT'S "SIS," GMA 7's MORNING TALK show, that's being watched by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

In an Oct. 12 memo, the MTRCB reported that comedienne Candy Pangilinan, a guest on the show, "uttered the objectionable [phrase]'*p--- ka.*'"

According to the report, the pejorative term was aired at 11 in the morning on Oct. 11.

"Broadcast live, the episode was a tribute to stand-up comic Tessie Tomas and featured different comedians," related Ruth Mariña, GMA 7 program manager for Entertainment.

Board chair Marissa Laguardia said a hearing was set on Oct. 17.

Laguardia pointed out that "although Pangilinan said it in a joking manner, the show's hosts (Janice de Belen, Gelli de Belen and Carmina Villarroel) should have apologized to the audience right there and then. Perhaps, they were caught unaware."

Host Janice de Belen acknowledged that they had been caught "speechless."

"Candy is used to working in comedy clubs where anything goes," De Belen said. "It wasn't intentional."

Mariña related: "At first, the hosts were shocked, but they tried to divert attention to other guests. Later, Tessie told Candy that she's funny, but what she did was not allowed on television."

In a letter dated Oct. 20, GMA Network Inc, through Dick B. Perez, vice president for Legal Affairs, formally "apologized for the inappropriate utterance of our guest."

The same letter recalled that in the Oct. 17 hearing, GMA 7 had assured the board that: "the program (would) issue a public apology ... (and would) submit itself for review for two weeks consisting of six taped episodes."

Jose Mari Abacan, vice president for Program Management, told the INQUIRER that "the network abides by the MTRCB's decision. We believe that the board is responsible in doing its job, but it also has to be open to the industry."

De Belen reiterated: "Things like that can happen in a live show. But rest assured that we've already apologized on air and we've made amends. Our only wish is to entertain people—especially those who've continuously supported and trusted us for the past five years."

SHOW HOSTS JANICE, Gelli and Carmina

DID YOU KNOW...

Oops...

NEW DELHI—A HEelicopter ride has left Hollywood star couple Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt in trouble after their hired aircraft landed at a palace hotel in western India without permission, a newspaper said on Friday.

Penalty for the violation was not immediately known.

The couple are in India shooting for "A Mighty Heart," a film about American reporter Daniel Pearl who was murdered in Pakistan in 2002.

Reuters

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'Brilliant cinematography'

By Marinel R. Cruz

MIKE TUVIERA'S HORROR FLICK "TXT" AND Mark Reyes' romance-comedy film "Till I Met You" were given "A" and "B" ratings, respectively, by the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB), citing both films' "excellent" and "brilliant" cinematography among the reasons for the incentive.

An A grade entitles a movie to a 100-percent tax rebate, while a B warrants a 65-percent rebate, said CEB chair Christine Dayrit.

"TXT," a co-production of Regal Films and APT Entertainment, is a good debut film for new director Mike Tuviera, said Dayrit.

"His work is very impressive, (although) direction leaves much to be desired. He has to learn how to handle his actors," the CEB chief added.

The film, about a woman haunted by an unseen spirit through her cell phone, was commended for its "very clean cinematography," as well as its "crisp and tight editing," said Dayrit.

Although one CEB member described the performances of lead actors Angel Locsin, Dennis Trillo and Oyo Sotto, as "lightweight," Dayrit said other members felt "they [were] inspired and credible."

She explained: "Oyo is appropriately menacing and terrifying. Angel is satisfactory as the damsel-in-distress. Dennis has had better roles, but he has to play the brave but bland Romeo-in-waiting."

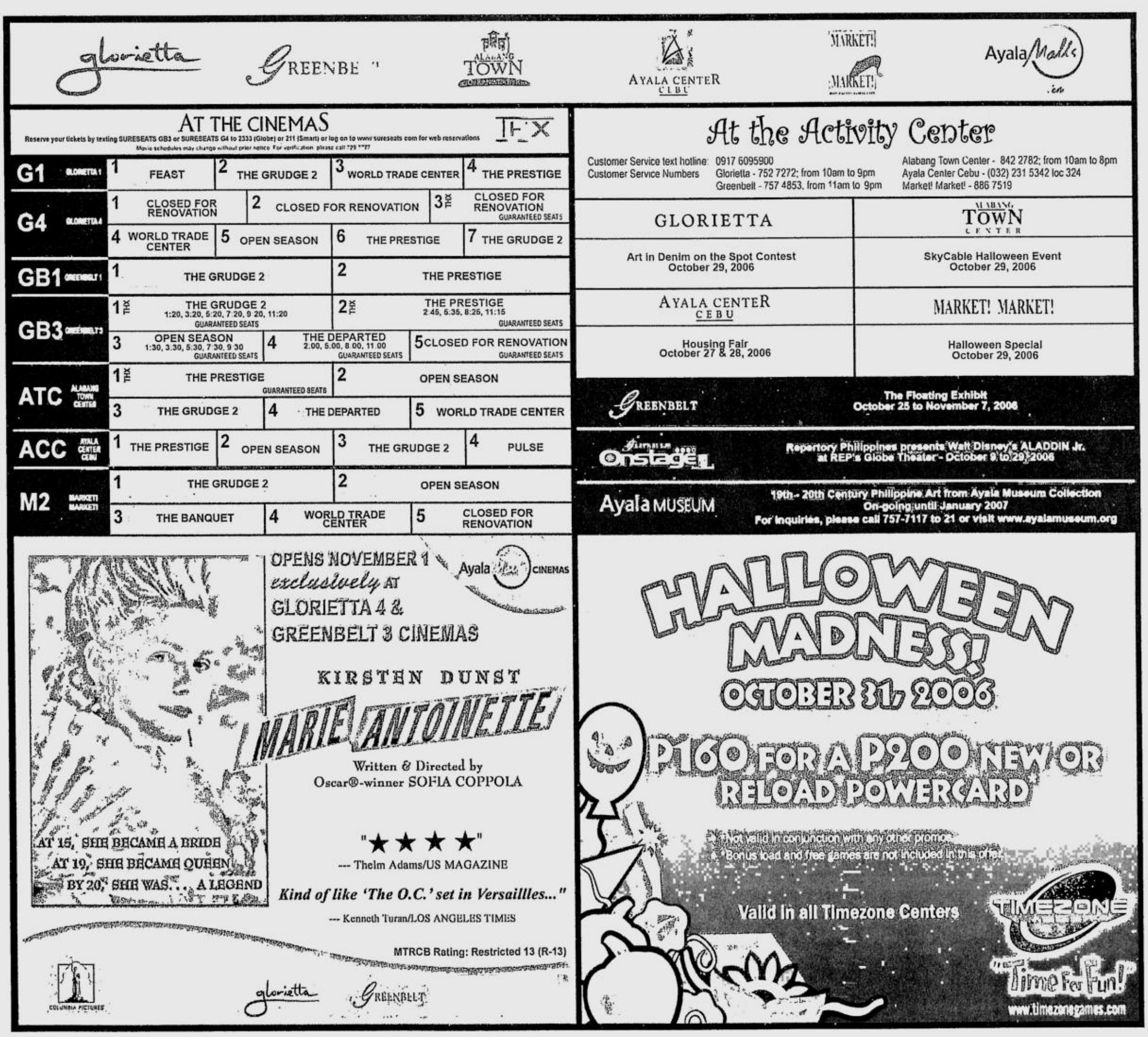
The quest for a B rating for "Till I Met You" had been tough, the CEB chair said.

DENNIS TRILLO with Angel Locsin in "Txt"

The Viva Films-GMA Network Films joint-venture casts Regine Velasquez (Luisa) as a con-artist who has her eyes on the wealth of an aging *haciendero* (Eddie Garcia). Robin Padilla (Gabriel) plays Garcia's right-hand man determined to expose Velasquez's scheme but, in the process, falls in love with her.

"A board member said the film is 'technically adequate but not enough to overcome the excesses of an uninhibited soap opera.' Another said the script is somewhat predictable," Dayrit said."

But she said the film deserved the citation for its "exceptionally brilliant" cinematography. She also said it "touches the heart."



FEEDBACK

'Harry Potter' fan

FROM Christine Magdaraog (christine_m_magdaraog@yahoo.com)

Hi *po* Mr. Ruben! I happened to read your article today (Oct. 13) entitled "A London Visit to 'Harry Potter 5' Set" and it left me in awe. Wow! *Nakakainggit po kayo!* (It's obvious, I'm a die-hard "Harry Potter" fan.) How I really wish London's just a stone's throw away... Thanks *po* for the article! I'm looking forward *po* to reading more "Harry Potter" articles in the INQUIRER. More power!

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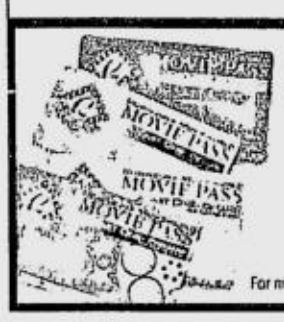

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Nicole Richie seeks help for thinness

LOS ANGELES—SOCIALITE Nicole Richie, whose rail-thin appearance in recent photos has stoked tabloid speculation of an eating disorder, has checked into a treatment facility to address her inability to gain weight, her publicist said on Thursday.

NICOLE RICHIE

"She is working with a team of doctors and specialists whose focus is nutrition," spokesperson Nicole Perna said in a statement. "It is important that she achieves this goal in a healthy way as this is not a treatment for an eating disorder."

Richie, the 25-year-old daughter of singer Lionel Richie, has publicly acknowledged her obvious loss of weight in recent months, telling Vanity Fair magazine: "I know I'm too thin right now... I'm not happy with the way I look."

And she told People magazine that "stress" over the breakup with her former fiance had briefly affected her eating habits. But she has vehemently denied as "rumor" media reports suggesting she suffered from an eating disorder.

Her admission to the unidentified facility has forced a delay in production of the latest installment of her popular TV reality show, "A Simple Life," producers said. *Reuters*

PENELOPE CRUZ'S portrayal of an abused girl's mom in "Volver" could win her the first-ever Oscar for a Spanish actress. REUTERS

Oscar buzz

LOS ANGELES—Penelope Cruz calls it the hardest role she's ever played, and if early reviews and award buzz hold up, her portrayal of an abused girl's mom in "Volver" could win Cruz the first-ever Oscar for a Spanish actress.

The movie debuts in major US cities on Nov. 3, and reunites Cruz with award-winning director Pedro Almodovar, who cast the then relatively unknown Spanish beauty in his 1997 movie "Live Flesh" and later in "All About My Mother."

Despite the funny moments in "Volver (Coming Back)" viewing sexual abuse with anything but a serious mind is hard, and getting the right mix of comedy and tragedy challenged 32-year-old Cruz.

"It's the most difficult and complex character somebody has put in my hands," she said "I know women who have gone through things that could have destroyed them, but they kept fighting... My character is not a victim." *Reuters*

A 'legend' celebrated

LOS ANGELES—Country singer Reba McEntire has a glitzy roster of friends and fans, and many of them came out to the Kodak Theatre to honor her Thursday night.

Country stars Dolly Parton, Barbara Mandrell, Trisha Yearwood and LeAnn Rimes were among the luminaries walking the red carpet before the taping of the tribute, to run as part of Country Music Television's "CMT Giants" series.

"Well, I said 'no' a couple of times," McEntire told AP Television. "And, then, finally, they said, 'No, we're really serious, and everybody wants to do it.' And I said, 'Well, all right."

The country queen, 51, first found fame with chart-toppers such as "Whoever's in New England" and "Does He Love You." Her TV sitcom, "Reba," has been running since 2001, and was one of the highest-rated shows on the recently disbanded WB network, where it left prime time last spring.

Looking down the star-studded arrivals line, McEntire was impressed by the turnout.

"Well, it's very overwhelming," she noted, "very flattering. I am in hog heaven, to say the least. I am just thrilled to pieces."

"I think we have to surround and celebrate our legends, 'cause we're losing them," said Wynonna Judd."

Pop singer Kelly Clarkson gushed praise. "I am here to tell Reba she's awesome," she said. "I love her, I adore her... She's just done so many great things, and so many great things for people. She's just a really great person, amazing." *AP*

KELLY CLARKSON LEANN RIMES DOLLY PARTON WYNONNA SCOTT REEVES

REBA MCENTIRE

Leave 'em alone

LILONGWE, Malawi—The father of the 13-month-old Malawian boy Madonna is trying to adopt insisted Friday that he supports her, and criticized human rights activists here who want the courts to review the process.

"I am surprised what these guys are up to," Yohane Banda told journalists outside the courtroom where a hearing on the human rights group's challenge was held Friday. "Me and my family agreed with the adoption. I just want these people to leave my son alone." *AP*

RUSHES

New Eastwood

There's a new face among the soldiers in Clint Eastwood's World War II drama, "Flags of Our Fathers"—Scott Reeves, the director's youngest son.

Reeves, 20, makes his big-screen debut as a Marine in one scene. He and a bunch of other guys smoke, play cards and listen to music while waiting to go into battle.

Obviously, Reeves is a fan of the movie, produced by Steven Spielberg, and which recounts the story of one of the six Americans who raised the flag on Iwo Jima. Relating it to his famous dad, Reeves told AP Television at "Flag's" recent premiere, "It's the culmination of everything, of all his work combined coming to this."

Eastwood is still with his second wife Dina. Reeves and his 18-year-old sister Kathryn's mother is Jacelyn Reeves, a former flight attendant.

You're the one

NEW YORK—Hundreds of musical wannabes lined up on Broadway in the chilly dark early on Friday morning in hopes the producer of the musical Grease would tap them and say, "You're the one that I want."

A new NBC reality television show of the same name has thrown open the casting call doors for the two lead roles of Grease made famous in the movie by Olivia Newton John and John Travolta—Sandy Dumbrowski and Danny Zuko.

The show, produced by Britain's BBC Worldwide Productions, follows the model of the BBC's "How Do I Solve A Problem Like Maria?" in which Julie Andrews wannabes compete to star in a new production of "The Sound of Music" to open late this year.

"Grease" was first seen in Chicago in 1971 and opened on Broadway in 1972. The 1978 film was one of the highest-grossing movie musicals. *Reuters*

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

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to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Ghastly gorging

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

FIRST OFF, THE AD MATERIALS FOR "Feast" only show in part the official poster of the movie—a close-up of one of its human-monster encounters. In one corner, there's a collage of people you won't see in the film, depicting a few sexy and well-dressed women carrying guns. Not that anyone would be fooled into expecting those non-existent characters in the story, but it's still misleading. If anything, that's another annoying example of the ongoing, deliberate revamping of poster materials for the local viewing market.

Anyway, "Feast" is a schlocky horror film that's more repulsive than it is scary, its screenplay the winner of Ben Affleck and Matt Damon's third Project Greenlight contest. It's a low-budgeted monster flick—and it shows. Some shots involving special effects are noticeably obscured to hide the presumably unrealistic-looking creature suits. But while the glimpses at the horrific menaces are few and fleeting, Project Greenlight director winner John Gulager and his crew show they're capable of making a clever—if cheesy and traditional—horror flick on a tight budget.

There isn't much of a story, but the script by Marcus Dunstan and Patrick Melton gets hilarious at times: A quiet roadside tavern is besieged by a number of man-eating creatures of unknown origin, trapping its clientele and employees—an intentionally goofy mix of characters—inside the dark, cramped building. With very few weapons and fewer sensible escape plans, the humans realize soon enough that it's only a matter of time before the disfigured beasts break down the walls

GHASTLY/ G4

BLOODY Krista Allen in "Feast"

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Mike Sanvictores
National Sales Manager
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And if that isn't enough, he checks up on them whenever he likes. Even if it's just to ask, how's the weather?

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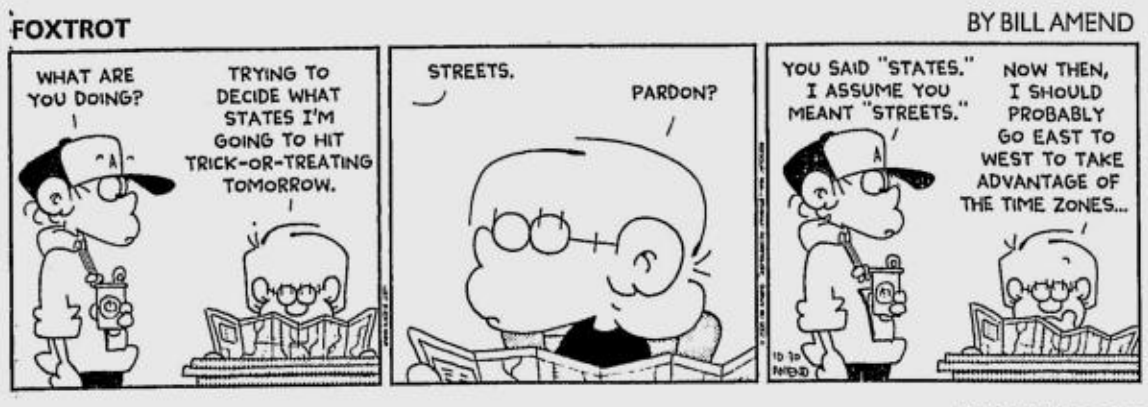
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND

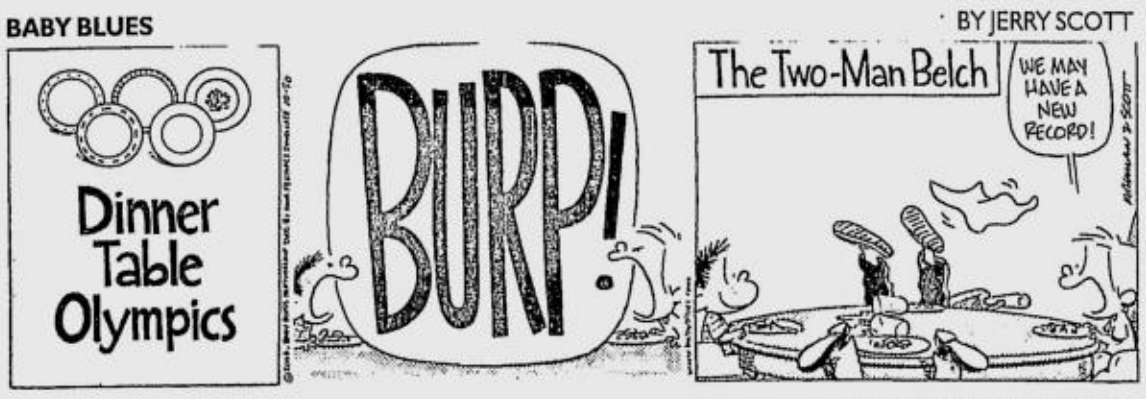


A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT



PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS

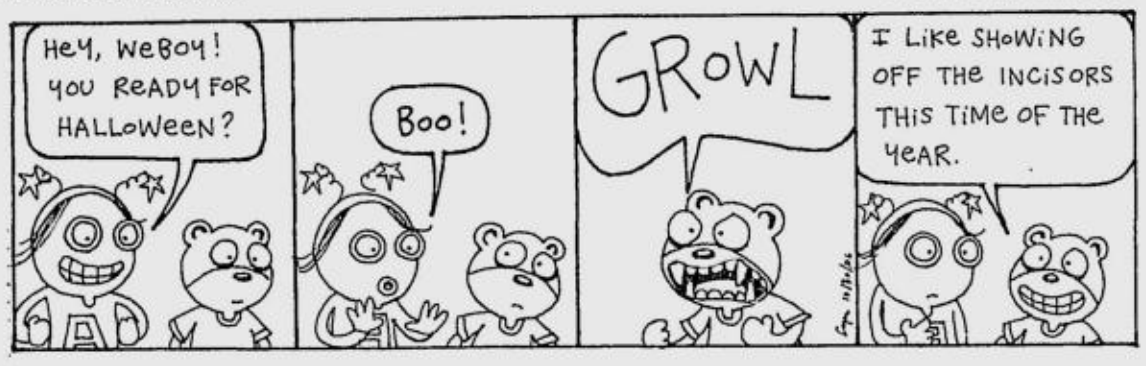
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

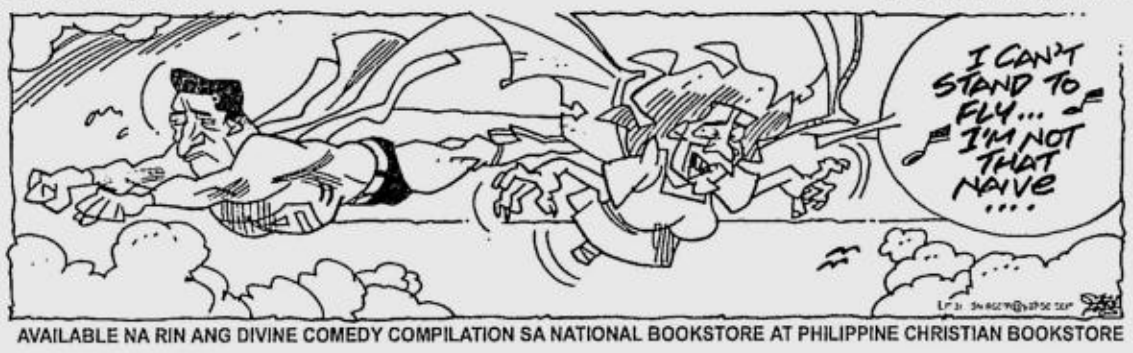
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO



DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



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KIKO MACHINE

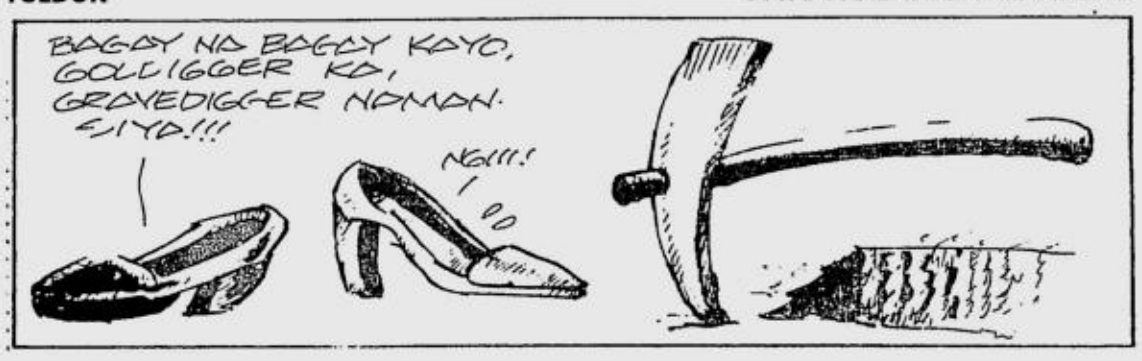
BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



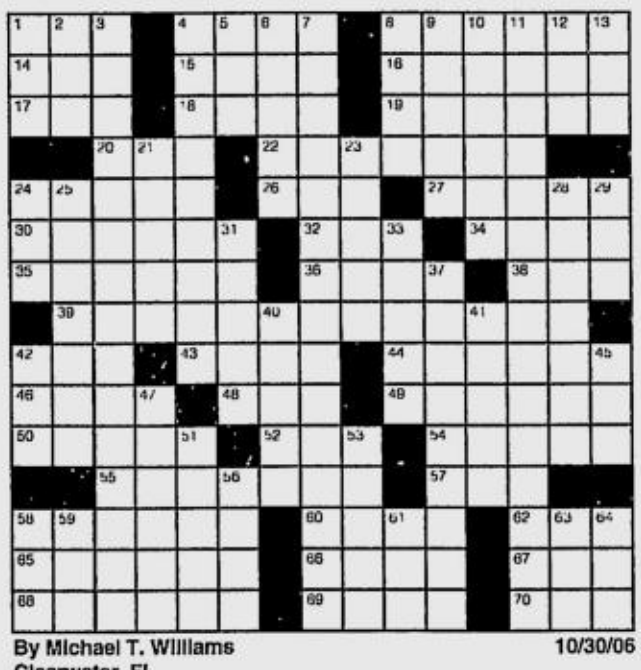
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Existed once
4 Cable market news org.
8 Los __, NM
14 Clay, nowadays
15 Ethereal
16 FDR center
17 Practical joke
18 Distinct mus. tones
19 Actor Coleman
20 Dundee denial
22 Golden oldie
24 Bailey or Buck
26 Asian holiday
27 Carbon compounds
30 2000 British film, "Billy __"
32 Egyptian god of pleasure
34 Melville's "Typee" sequel
35 Lumberman's tool
36 Trigger's lunch
38 Cpl. aspirant
39 Protectors of Gotham City
42 Spanish uncle
43 Vegas machine
44 Singers John and Bonnie
46 Money __ everything!
48 Ulna site
49 Main or Maple
50 Medley meals
52 Extinct bird
54 Gull cousins
55 Marine facilities
57 Work unit
58 Charles de __
60 Latin way
62 Nest-egg $
65 Martini garnishes
66 Queue
67 Stimpy's cartoon buddy
68 Bear witness
69 Art print, briefly
70 Destiny

DOWN
1 Tall wiggle
2 Carte preceder
3 Three Bats
4 Lawyers' burdens
5 Hoops event
6 Leaflike plant part
7 Three Bats
8 Piles on
9 Period of tenancy
10 Unpigmented
11 Three Bats
12 The loniest number
13 Salty sauce
21 Turn up
23 Mr. T's outfit
24 MPH part
25 Snob
28 Islands in the Norwegian Sea
29 Part of SSA
31 Choreographer Tharp
33 Mixes
37 Disseminator
40 Sally Field movie, "__ Rae"
41 Even more calamitous
42 Shakespearean contraction
45 Ave. crossers
47 A dozen
51 Marketing figure
53 Mr. Addams on TV
56 For fear that
58 Himalayan gazelle
59 Keyboard key
61 Largest part of the U.K.
63 Auto pioneer's initials
64 Tiny colony critter



By Michael T. Williams
Clearwater, FL
10/30/06

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	R	R	I	A	G	E	■	S	T	A	P	L	E
O	L	E	A	N	D	E	R	■	T	E	A	S	E	S
A	B	S	T	A	I	N	S	■	R	A	R	E	S	T
T	A	T	■	S	E	E	K	■	A	R	O	U	S	E
I	C	A	L	■	U	R	I	■	T	E	N	D	E	R
N	O	R	A	D	■	A	N	D	E	R	S	O	N	S
G	R	E	B	E	S	■	E	E	G	■	■	■	■	■
S	E	A	S	L	U	G	■	M	I	S	H	A	P	S
■	■	■	■	■	M	R	I	■	C	H	E	R	R	Y
A	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T	■	E	A	T	E	N
N	A	V	A	H	O	■	H	A	Y	■	L	I	M	A
G	N	O	M	O	N	■	A	P	E	D	■	S	I	P
E	D	I	B	L	E	■	S	I	T	U	A	T	E	S
L	A	D	L	E	R	■	T	R	I	P	W	I	R	E
A	S	S	E	S	S	■	E	S	S	E	N	C	E	S

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10/30/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very confident. You're talented at many things, and you're a natural leader. You know how to motivate others. You'll pitch in at every level just to get the job done. People like you and want to work for you or with you. In the year ahead, you will face an important decision. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Diego Armando Maradona, soccer player; Henry Winkler, actor/director; Grace Slick, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You definitely can benefit from the wealth of others today. People will do favors for you. You might inherit something or get a gift today. Keep your pockets open!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Conversations with partners are upbeat, positive and joyful today. You truly enjoy an exchange of ideas, as well as a few laughs. (That's because people are easily happy today.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Matters related to your health and your job look very promising now. You might even be relieved. Business looks very good today as well.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an artistic, playful, fun-loving, romantic day. It's about as good as it gets. Make sure you set aside some time for enjoyment with others, especially children or any involvement in professional sports.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Family discussions are joyful today! However, this is also an excellent day for business; therefore, look to real-estate deals if they exist. (You can do very well here.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're unusually convincing with others today. If you need to make someone agree with you, now is the time. You sound like a winner, and your enthusiasm makes others believe in you!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is an excellent day for business and commerce. You can enjoy making money, and you can enjoy spending it as well! Your cash flow looks good.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You see the big picture today, and this allows you to make plans with intelligence and foresight. Your comprehension of anything is quite keen and profound.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Hold fast to your idealistic ideas. Today you find you can actually walk your talk. You see that what you believe in actually works. (This is reassuring.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Group activities are full of fun today. This is a great day to schmooze with others. It's easy to be tolerant of different points of view.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Discussions with important people will yield positive results. They think you know what you're talking about. They're impressed with your vision and your daring eagerness to think big. (Great!)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your ability to understand broad issues—especially related to politics, religion and philosophy—is excellent today. You can wrap your head around anything!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	6	7	1					
	4		7			9	6	5
	3	5	6			4		1
						2	1	9
	8			5			3	
6	1	2						
1		4			6	3	5	
3	7	8			4		9	
					3	1	8	

Difficulty Level ★ 10/30

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	9	1	2	5	7	4	6	3
3	4	5	8	9	6	2	1	7
6	2	7	3	1	4	9	8	5
4	6	9	7	3	5	8	2	1
7	5	8	1	2	9	3	4	6
1	3	2	6	4	8	5	7	9
2	8	6	9	7	3	1	5	4
9	1	4	5	6	2	7	3	8
5	7	3	4	8	1	6	9	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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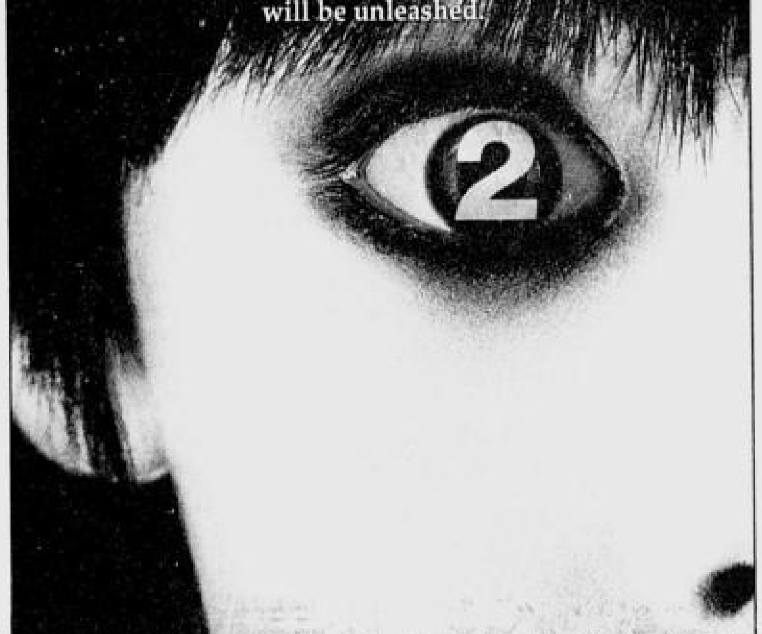

THE GRUDGE 2

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OPEN SEASON IN 3D
12:30PM 2:30PM 6:00PM 8:00PM 10:00PM Admission Price- P350

1 THE BANQUET
2 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
3 THE PRESTIGE
4 THE GRUDGE 2
5 OPEN SEASON
6 TXT

PREMIERE CINEMA
TILL I MET YOU

DIRECTOR'S CLUB
RESERVED

CENTERSTAGE
WORLD TRADE CENTER

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 THE GUARDIAN
12:15PM 12:45PM 3:30PM 6:15PM 8:35PM 9:00PM
2 THE BANQUET
12:00PM 12:30PM 2:45PM 5:00PM 7:15PM 9:20PM 9:30PM
3 THE PRESTIGE
12:20PM 12:40PM 3:15PM 5.50PM 8:00PM 8:25PM
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
11:00PM 11:10PM 1:30PM 3.50PM 6.10PM 8.15PM 8.30PM
5 OPEN SEASON
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 THE PRESTIGE
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
10 FEAST
11 TXT
12 THE GRUDGE 2

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 OPEN SEASON
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER

PODIUM

CINEMA 1
WORLD TRADE CENTER

CINEMA 2
THE PRESTIGE
633-8976

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 THE GRUDGE
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 OPEN SEASON
6 THE PRESTIGE
7 FEAST
8 THE GUARDIAN
9 TXT
10 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
11 THE DEPARTED
12 THE BANQUET

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 THE PRESTIGE
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TXT
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 FEAST
7 THE BANQUET
8 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
9 OPEN SEASON
10 THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
THE PRESTIGE
OPEN SEASON
TILL I MET YOU
THE GRUDGE 2

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 THE PRESTIGE
3 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
4 OPEN SEASON
5 WORLD TRADE CENTER
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 ANNAPOLIS
2 THE BANQUET
3 FEAST
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 THE GRUDGE 2
6 BARANG
7 THE PRESTIGE
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 TXT
10 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
11 THE GUARDIAN
12 OPEN SEASON

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 STICK IT
3 BARANG
4 TXT
5 OPEN SEASON
6 THE GRUDGE 2
7 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
8 THE GUARDIAN
9 WORLD TRADE CENTER
10 TILL I MET YOU
11 THE BANQUET
12 FEAST

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE PRESTIGE
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 FEAST
6 TXT
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 OPEN SEASON
9 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE PRESTIGE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 OPEN SEASON

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LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 TXT
5 THE PRESTIGE
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 WORLD TRADE CENTER
8 OPEN SEASON

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE PRESTIGE
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
6 TXT

SM CITY MARILAO (044)0332013-17
1 OPEN SEASON
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 THE DEPARTED
2 OPEN SEASON
3 FLY BOYS
4 TXT

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 TXT
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 THE PRESTIGE
5 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LIPA
1 THE BREED
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE DEPARTED
4 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 OPEN SEASON
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 WICKER MAN
4 THE DEPARTED

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 FLY BOYS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 THE BANQUET

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341205-06
1 THE BREED
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
5 PULSE
6 THE DEPARTED
7 TILL I MET YOU
8 THE GRUDGE 2

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 RESERVED
3 THE BREED
4 OPEN SEASON
5 THE GUARDIAN
6 STEP UP
7 RESERVED
8 PULSE

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 PULSE
5 STEP UP
6 THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 THE DEPARTED
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 FLY BOYS

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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Shang Cineplex
5th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
1 (DOLBY) THE PRESTIGE
2 (DOLBY) OPEN SEASON
3 (DOLBY) THE GRUDGE 2
4 (DOLBY) WORLD TRADE CENTER
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) THE BANQUET

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4234 / 816.4236
1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE PRESTIGE
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE

Starmall EDSA-Shaw
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 OPEN SEASON
5 PULSE

Metropolis Star Mall
www.cinekthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 6504286, 5433694
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 OPEN SEASON
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TXT

THEATRES
1 THE DEPARTED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest Festival Cinema
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 THE GRUDGE - 2
2 THE DEPARTED
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 THE PRESTIGE
5 OPEN SEASON
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 TILL I MET YOU
8 THE BANQUET
9 FEAST
10 TXT

Blue Wave Marikina
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) OPEN SEASON
2 (DOLBY) FEAST
3 (DOLBY) WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 (DOLBY) TILL I MET YOU

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 THE GRUDGE - 2
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 OPEN SEASON
5 FEAST

The Marketplace
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 PULSE
4 BARANG

Masagana Cinema
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TXT

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4449346)
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 OPEN SEASON

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE GRUDGE - 2
4 TILL I MET YOU

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7097
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT

Eastwood Cinemas
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE PRESTIGE
4 THE GRUDGE - 2

CINEMA 2000 Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 OPEN SEASON
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE BREED
4 TXT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 THE DEPARTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 BARANG
2 TILL I MET YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 PULSE
2 DAWIN SA DILIM
3 HUNGER FOR LOVE
4 TILL I MET YOU

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 HALIMUYAK
3 BARANG
4 TXT
5 OPEN SEASON

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 OPEN SEASON
3 FLY BOYS
4 THE DEPARTED

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Staring death in the face

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"WORLD TRADE CENTER," **OLIVER STONE'S** take on the 9/11 terrorist attack on New York City, could have been shot as a big-bang spectacle, concentrating on the mass carnage that ensued.

However, aside from some cutaway shots of crowds rushing out of the stricken twin towers, the film opts to tell the much more intimate story of two policemen trapped in the bowels of one of the buildings.

The decision is an astute one, because the tragic event could still be too close for comfort for many Americans. Focusing on the mass aspect of the tragedy may have turned off or emotionally assaulted viewers before that were ready to confront the traumatic attack on the big screen.

So, "World Trade Center" chooses to follow the two cops (**Nicolas Cage** and **Michael Peña**) as they go about their business on Sept. 11, 2001, expecting the day to be as ordinary as they came. But they were suddenly forced to stare death in the face as they bravely volunteered to help some attack victims escape and survive.

As fate would have it, the cops weren't able to do much helping before the tower collapsed, and trapped them in its ruins.

At first, there were three of them, but the third policeman died on them, so Cage and Peña's characters had to contend with their ordeal alone.

"Alone" turns out to be the theme of the movie's second half, as the cops endure hours upon hours of absolutely no contact at all with the outside world—and no hope of rescue in sight, or within hearing distance.

To keep from giving up the ghost, the cops share stories about their lives and their loved ones, and keep watch over each other so they don't go to sleep and give up the fight for life and survival.

It's when the film cuts away to the cops' families that the story of heroism is in danger of being eroded by the relatives' occasional displays of mewling peevishness. We are also struck by the fact that practically nobody in the film prays.

Upon reflection, however, our conclusion is that those less than heroic scenes are needed, to provide an instructive contrast to the cops' bravery. Those contrary and even contradictory scenes imbue the production with a measure of cynical realism that makes the cops' heroism all the more sterling.

The storytelling also slows down during the movie's final third section, but viewers' interest perks up again when a volunteer does come to the cops' aid, and their rescue is belatedly effected.

Viewers in the need of inspiration and a boost of empathetic heroism should treat themselves to a screening of "World Trade Center."

Its two cops' tale of bravery while staring into the face of daunting adversity and death is so realistically told that it makes it easier for us to see ourselves as potential heroes in our own lives and spheres of influence.

'El Filibusterismo'

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation presents "El Filibusterismo," a dramatization of **Jose Rizal**'s second novel, from Nov. 5 to 26 at various venues. Call 899-5745.

The play topbills **Roeder Camañag, Dido dela Paz, Jojit Lorenzo, Chiqui Xeres Burgos, Bong Embile, Jorge Cabullo** and **Perry Escaño**, and is directed by **Soxy Topacio**.

Ghastly gorging

From page G1

and make quick meals of them.

It starts imaginatively. Each character is introduced with a short freeze-frame monochromatic shot, accompanied by a song unique to that person, as well as profile information such as "name" and "life expectancy."

The names are descriptive: Hero (Eric Dane), the gun-toting but short-lived protector character: Coach (Henry Rollins), the motivational speaker; Hot Wheels (Josh Zuckerman), the wheelchair-confined explosives expert; Heroine (Navi Rawat), Hero's quick-thinking wife and, well, you get the idea. The joke-y "life expectancy" parts are especially effective when, through the course of the story, the body count mostly proves this film's slasher-casualty prescience wrong.

Once that's out of the way, "Feast" falls back on a more familiar frame, and goes for a typical gross-out, splatter-fest story structure. People just die in some of the dumbest or most disgusting ways imaginable. Think of a smaller-scaled, less engaging mash-up of "Night of the Living Dead," "From Dusk Till Dawn," and "Dog Soldiers."

The chaos is done proficiently enough, though, the rapid editing complementing many dimly lit action shots. While the final product is lacking in punch and suspense, it has a charismatic enough cast that keeps you from regretting that you partook of this bloody monster meal-in-progress in the first place.

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GRUDGE 2 PG13 1:45,3:50,6:05,8:15	OPEN SEASON G 2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00	THE PRESTIGE R13 2:45,5:25,8:05
WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13 2:35,5:10,7:45,10:20	EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PG13 12:50,3:05,5:20,7:35,9:50	THE PRESTIGE R13 2:15,4:55,7:35,10:30

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2 OPEN SEASON MTRCB GP 1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
3 THE GRUDGE 2 MTRCB PG 13 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER MTRCB PG-13 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE THE BANQUET MTRCB PG 13 1:15, 3:55, 6:35, 9:30
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TXT
THE GUARDIAN
WORLD TRADE CENTER 1:50/4:30
THE PRESTIGE 12:30/3:20
ALIMALL 5
THE PRESTIGE
FEAST
TILL I MET YOU 12:10 R3
THE GRUDGE 2 8:40
WORLD TRADE CENTER 2:10/2:50/ 5:30, 8:10
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BEE GEES GREATEST HITS LIVE November 25, Saturday 8 pm

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Monday October 30, 2006

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Mon Cole Krin	Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	TNA Wrestling		Big News	Global Shockers		Totoo TV		Philippine Idol	Sentro	The Apprentice		Araw-Araw Prem-yo Sa Resbo	Lady La Mas Fair
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amc	[illegible], Ikaw Ba		Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Idol (8:15 PM)		Maging Sino Ka Man	Pinoy Dream Academy	Crazy For You	Bandila	Real Pinoy Fighter	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		Nuremberg				30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	Beastmaster (Season II)		Worlds Apart		The Ultimate Fighter (Season II)		The Amazing Race (Season X)		House (Season II)		Nip/Tuck	
bTV				Vintage NBA Jerry West		NBA Greatest Game				NBA Jam	NBA Action	Vintage NBA James Worthy		NBA Access	NBA Europe Live 2006 3rd Place Game				
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	inx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel/ My Gym Partner's A Monkey	Bobobo/ Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Mirumo De Pon	Pokemon: The Johto Journey	The Justirisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Ang Mahiwagang Daigdig Ni Elias Paniki				agpatawad Mo				Diskarte				Esperanza The Movie				Dr. X On The Air	
Cinemax				The Stars Fell On Henrietta (3:55 PM)				Blade Squad (5:55 PM)			The Making Of Battlestar Galactica 2	Battlestar Galactica Mission 8			Battlestar Galactica Mission 9 (9:25 PM)			Beyond Borders (10:55PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	ry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Living Golf/ Revealed Main Sail Art of Life		Your World Today	
Crime/Suspense		What Should You Do?		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Masterminds	Law & Order		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Law Firm		Prison Break		Treasure Hunters	
Discovery Channel				Monster Garage		dliest Catch				Wild Australasia		Ancient Egyptians		Chinese Whispers		Tribe		Deadliest Catch	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	mperor's New School	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Black Hole High/ Atlantis The Lost Empire	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies/ Inspector Gadget	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Extreme Programming Sports Max 2006/07		UEFA Champions League Magazine Show	In The Drive Seat	Billiards '06		NFL Football Cowboys @ Panthers						Sportscenter Asia	MLB World Series Game7 (If Nec)				
ETC	Friends	Beauty And The Geek		Change of Heart	Elimidate	nd Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Project Runway 2		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		America's Next Top Model 5		ET Weekend	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		he Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	The Biggest Loser 2		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Benediction And Devotion	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Bible Treasure Chest	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	G.K. Chesterton: The Apostle Of Common Sense II	Threshold Of Hope		Sunday Night With (Encore) Fr. Benedict Groeschel		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Good Or Evil, Who Decides?	The Catholic Church Through The Ages	Freedom & Authority	Catholic Compass	
Fox News	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Sunday		Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	rbes On Fox	Cashin' In	Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Asawa Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Atlantika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		up Thomas F Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Doc Martin		Judging Amy		Run the Wild Fields			
HBO			The Wool Cap (3:45 PM)			Thunderbirds (5:15 PM)								Dominion: Prequel To Exorcist				Exorcist: The Beginning	
Hero TV	Rune Soldier	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Gunlock	Full Metal Panic Fumoffu	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	B-Daman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Ganbaruger	Rune Soldier	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Japan Video Topics/ Arms		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arms	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Bottomline		Afterburn		Cinema Tech	Evolver	Beat The Geeks	Street Smarts	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Jack Yard	Jack's Booth				The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	Embellish This	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Intimate Portrait	E! Extra 101 Craziest TV Moments			Martha		Isaac		Radical Sabbatical	Genuine Article
MTV Philippines		MTV Hits	8th & Ocean		Wildboyz	8th & Ocean	MTV Hits			Get Spotted	MTV Hits	Rockista on MTV	MTV Hits	Wildboyz	8th & Ocean	MTV Live	Jams	VH1 All Access	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXilog	MYX Finals	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mobile MYX Top Picks		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Naked Science		The Living Edens		Top 5		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Wow!		Martial Arts Week		The Living Edens		Wild Sex	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alsp.			Diyos Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Kapihan Ng Bayan			Tinig ng Bayan (Live)	Teledyaryo Final Edition		Dial M		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Kiskot At Kembot				Kanbas				Dahil Tanging Ikaw				Kung Kasalanan Man				Akuhetik At Cafe
Qtv	Starry Night	Samurai X	Battle B-Daman	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Winter Sonata	Irene	Emperor Of The Sea	Takeshi's Castle	H3O Ha-ha-ha...Oyer!		News On Q	Sapulso		Irene	Overseas Filipino Witness
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savages	Jake In Progress	Scare Tactics	GBB	Movie Monday				Newswatch Now	Go Negosyo		Kaphan
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports						WNCAA		Billiards US 9 Ball		Sagupaan		Spanish League				Sportsdesk		NFL Game	
Star Movies	Fatal Reunion			Rapid Fire			Home Alone 3				In Progress (7:20 PM)			The Lizzie McGuire Movie			Boogeyman (10:35PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		The Apprentice		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids	Everybody Loves Raymond	King Of Queens	Becker	For Better Or For Worse		Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids
Studio 23		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXilog	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	The Amazing Race	Lost (8:15 PM)		Alias		News Central	Wickedly Perfect		Travel Time

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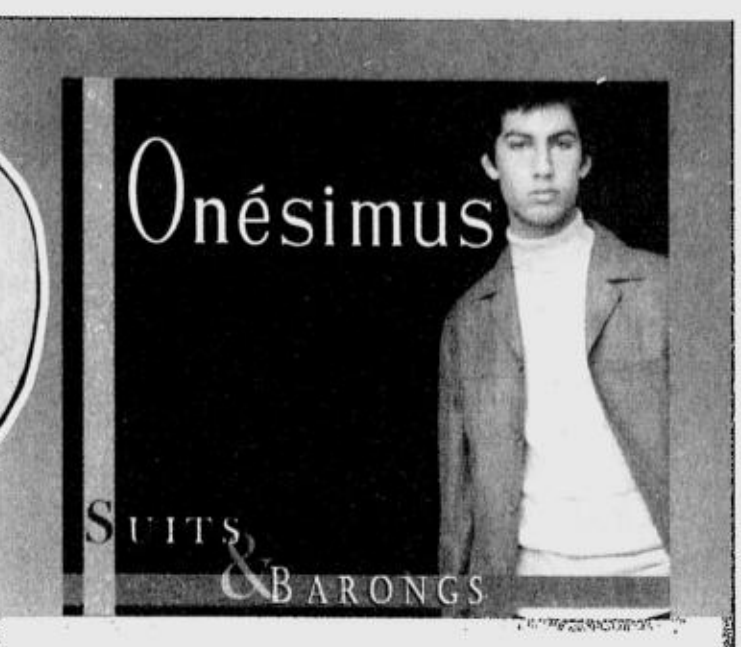

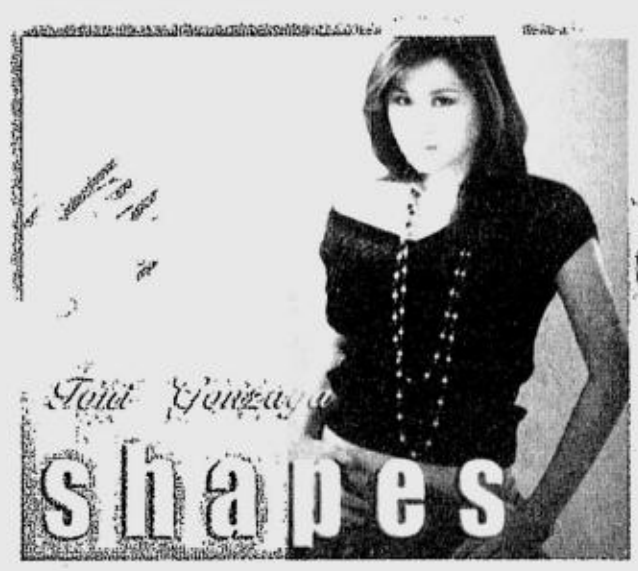

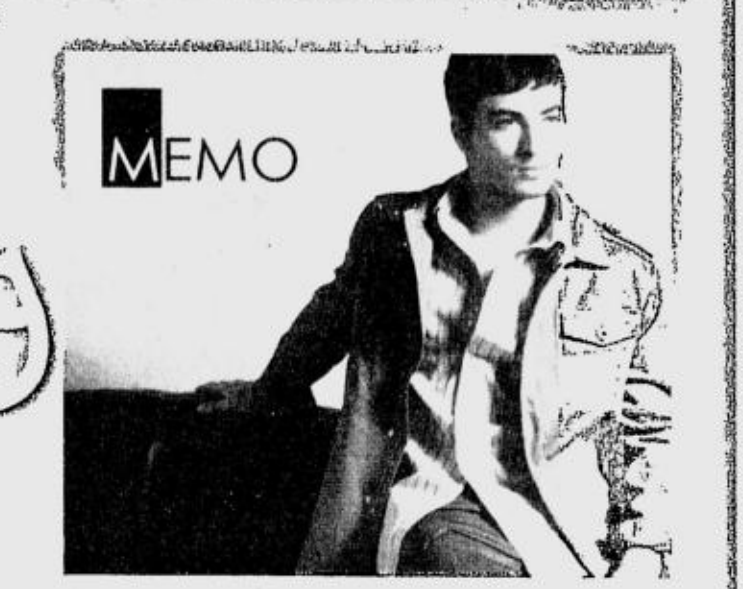

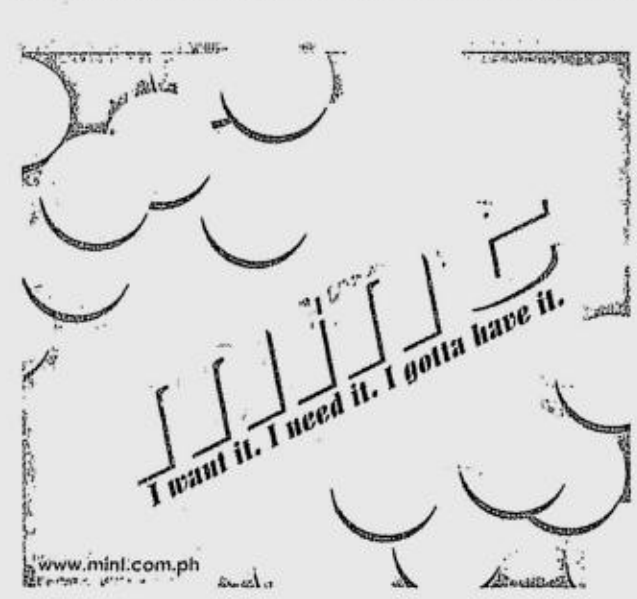

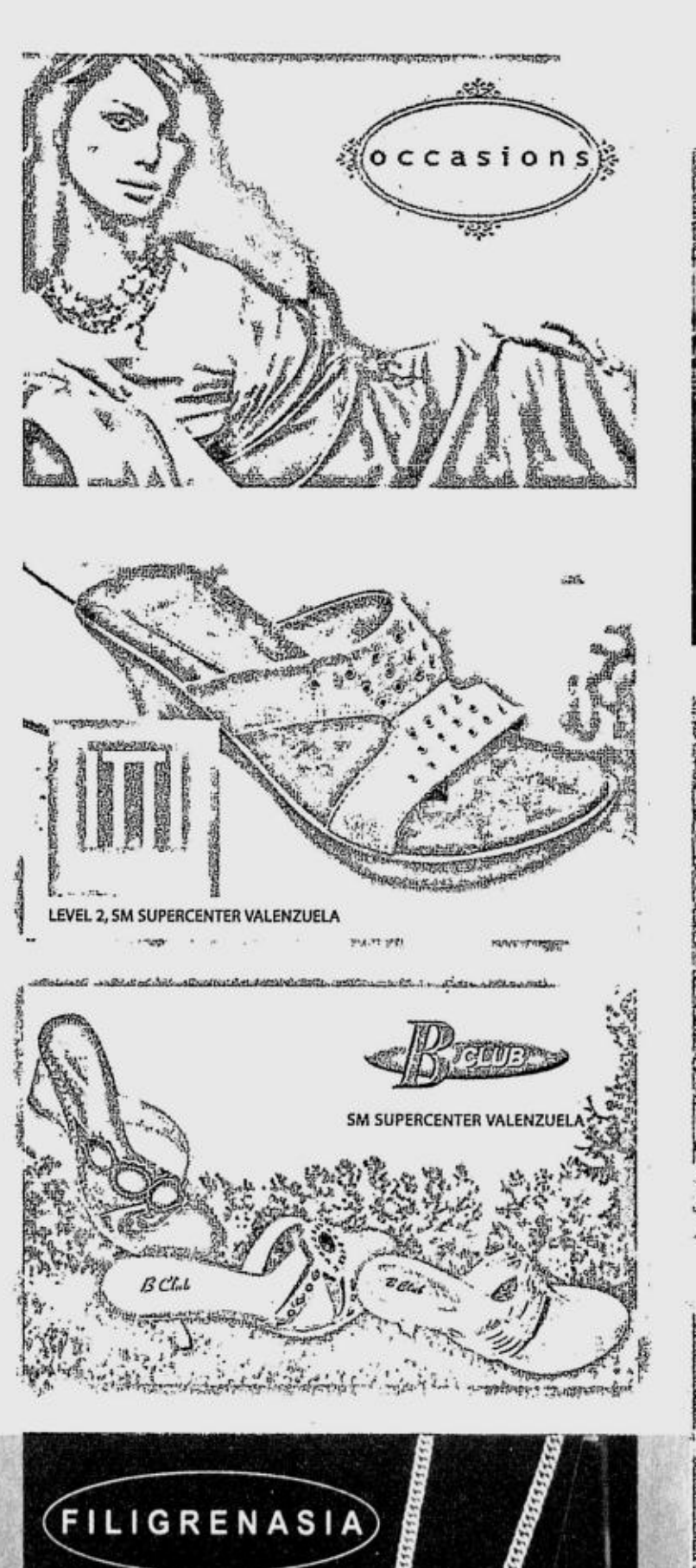

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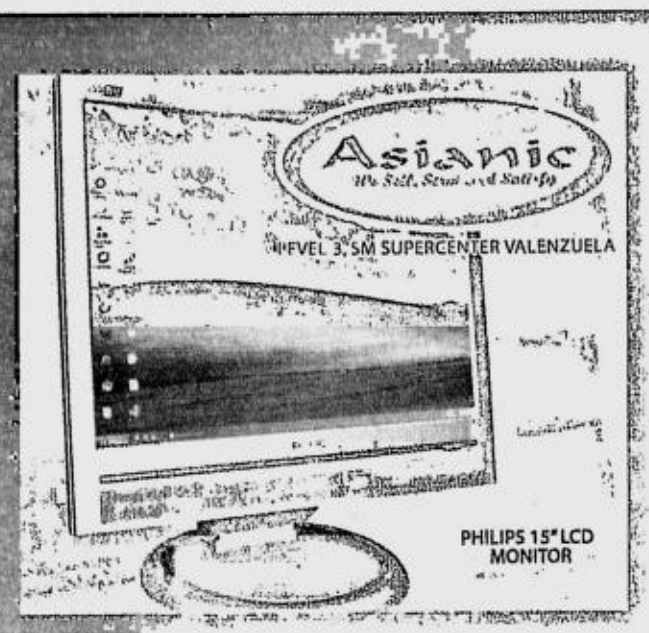
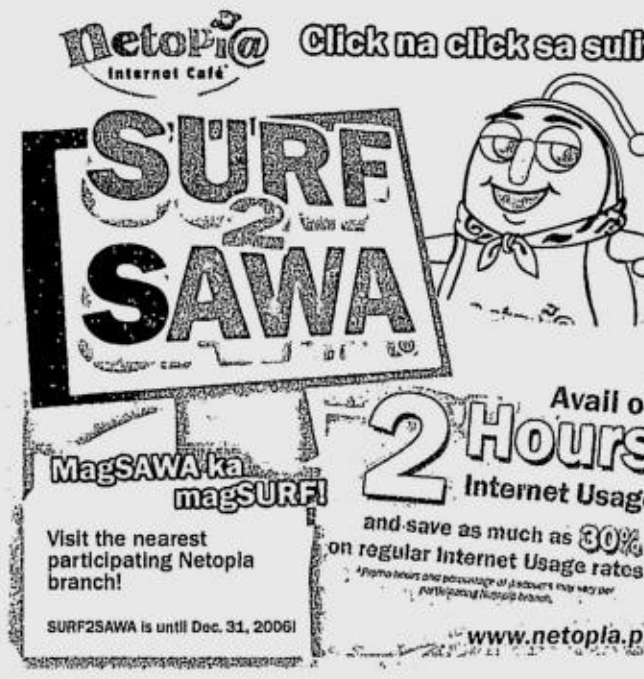
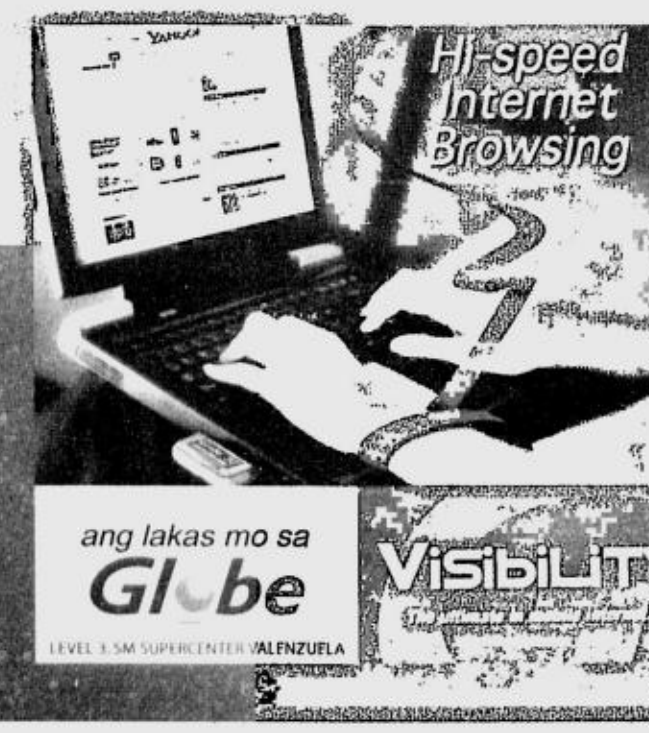




halloween family fun!



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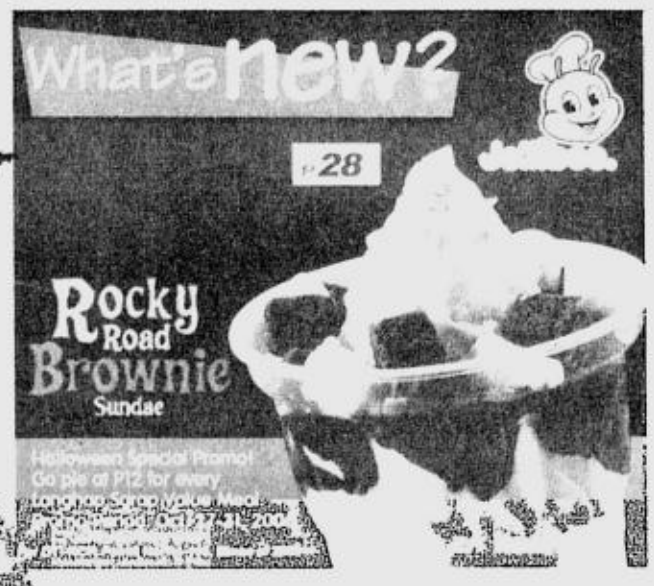
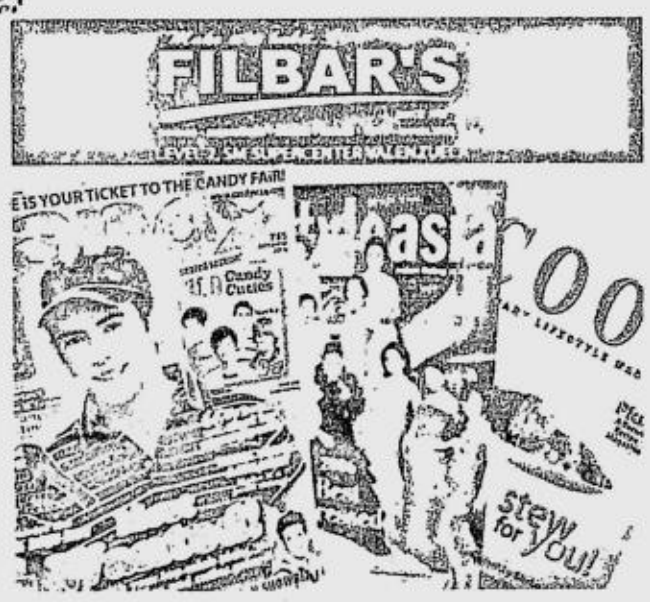


have fun this halloween



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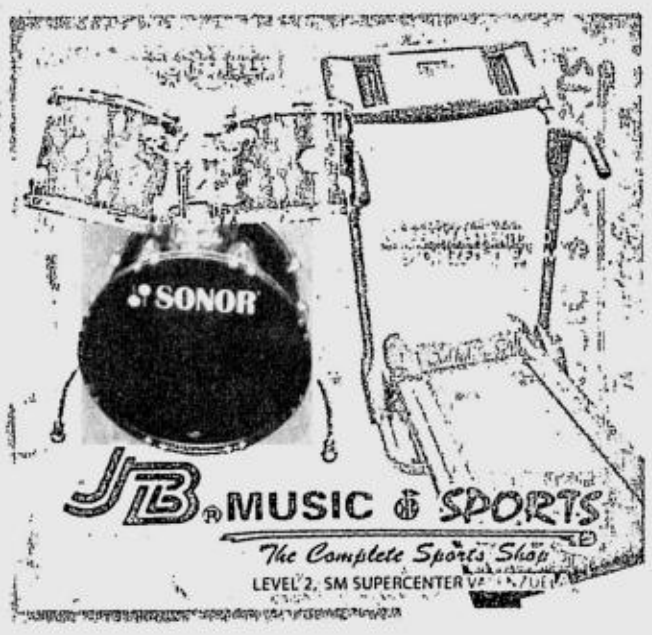
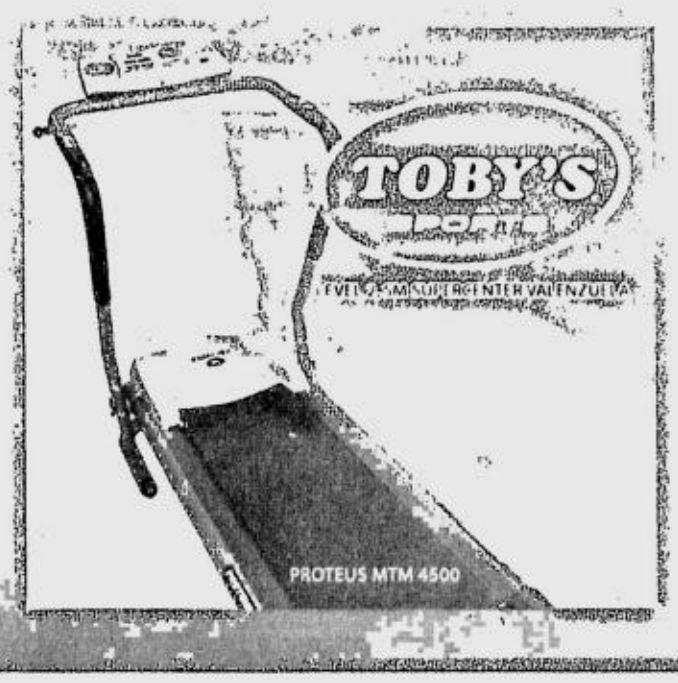
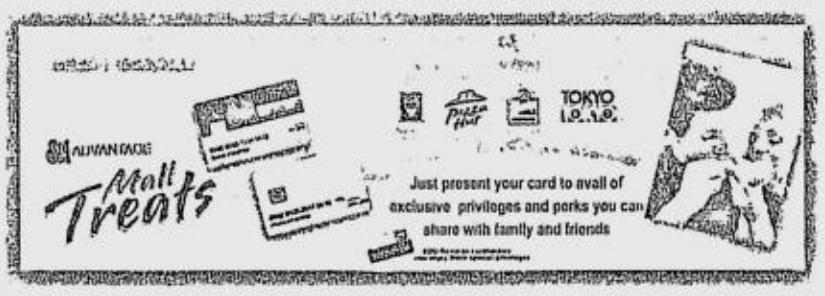






SM SUPERMALLS

WORLD/ A20

Lula roars back to win Brazil presidency

ACROSS / A13

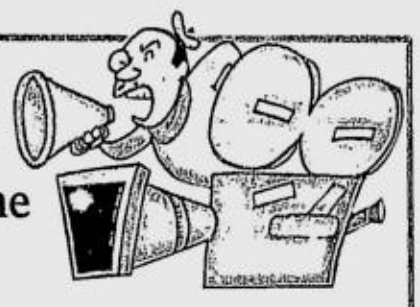
2 RP kids die in Malaysia deportation

BUSINESS/ B1

Peso surges to 4-year high of 49.73 to $1

ENTERTAINMENT/ D1

Digital filmmakers talk back: Don't blame the equipment



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, October 31, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 325 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Too much energy drink may zap you, say experts

MORE THAN 500 NEW energy drinks were launched worldwide this year, and coffee fans are probably too old to understand why.

Energy drinks aren't merely popular with young people—they at-

TOO MUCH/ A6

Sandiganbayan clears Binay of graft charge

By Norman Bordadora

ROUND 2 HAS COME AND GONE, AND MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay is still standing.

Ten days after the Court of Appeals stopped Malacañang from suspending him, the Sandiganbayan yesterday dismissed the graft charge against the political boss of the country's financial district in connection with an alleged purchase of over-

SANDIGANBAYAN/ A6

'Paeng' weakens, exits RP

14 dead but damage minimal, say disaster officials

By Norman Bordadora and Inquirer Northern and Central Luzon

AFTER PACKING WINDS of nearly 200 kilometers per hour, Supertyphoon "Paeng" (international code name: Cimaron) considerably weakened yesterday as it crossed two mountain ranges in northern Luzon. But it left at least 14 people dead and a trail of destruction.

Before roaring out to the South China Sea, Paeng blew away houses, uprooted trees, toppled electric posts and caused landslides and flooding.

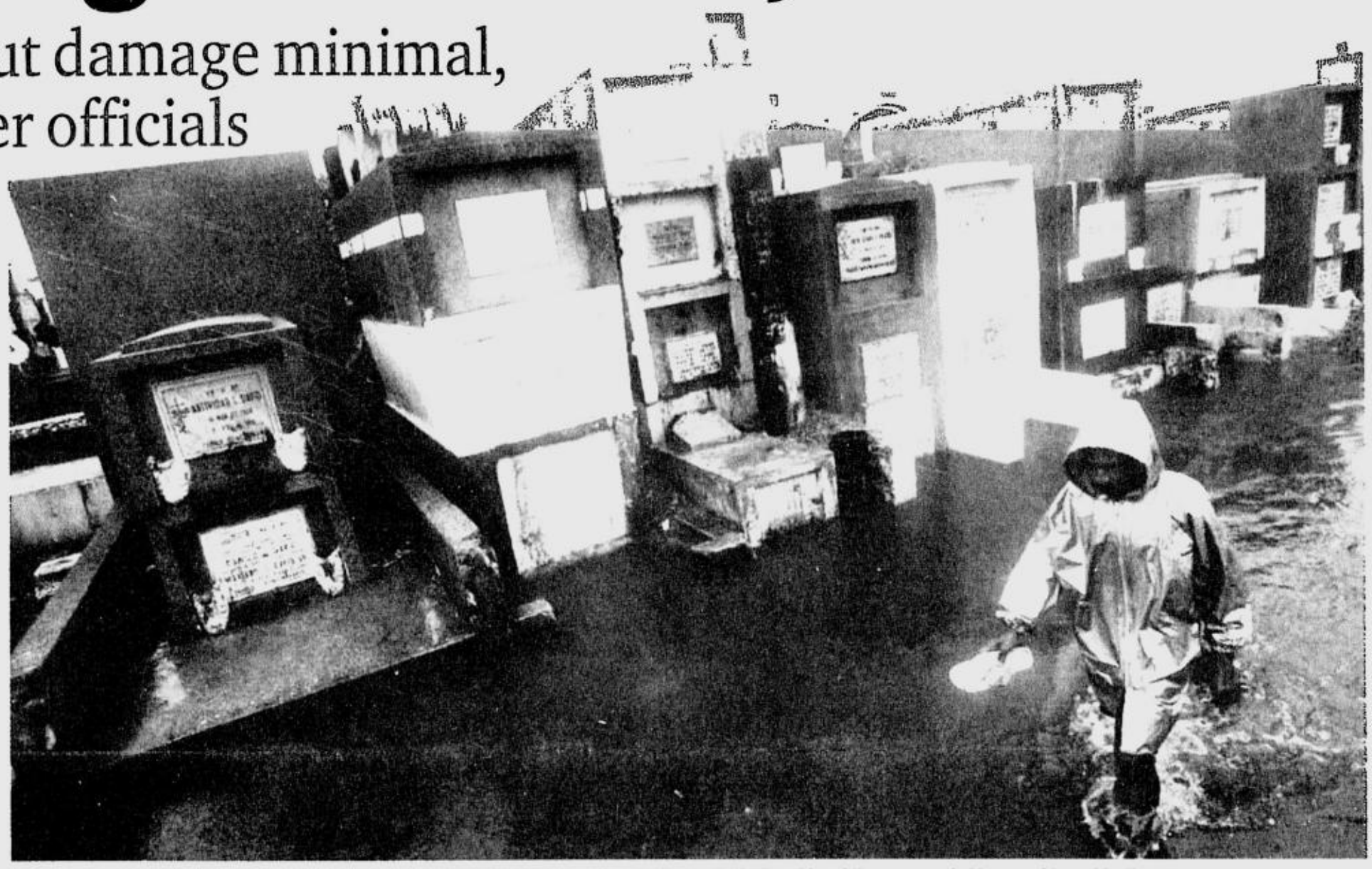
Disaster officials marvelled at initial reports pointing out the "minimal" damage caused by Paeng compared to the destruction wrought last month by Typhoon "Milenyo" that left 231 dead or missing and tens of thousands homeless.

"The casualty and damage report is minimal," Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. reported to President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is in China, in a teleconference from the headquarters of the National Disaster Coordinating Council in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

Nathaniel Cruz, weather branch chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), said Paeng was quite strong.

"When it crossed the Sierra

'PAENG'/ A6



ALL SAINTS' Day or not, Supertyphoon "Paeng" has brought floods to many parts of Luzon, including this public cemetery in Navotas, Metro Manila. REM ZAMORA

Cabinet men in row over Cha-cha loss agree to truce

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

CABINET MEMBERS FEUDING over the defeat of the people's initiative have agreed not to launder their dirty linen in public—at least while President Macapagal-Arroyo is away and while the country is struggling to assist victims of Supertyphoon "Paeng."

"We cannot afford people thinking we are fighting when there is a disaster going on," the President's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, said.

To prevent the squabble from getting nastier, Defensor said that he, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr.—who is at the center of the squabble—phoned each other on Sunday and agreed that all parties involved should shut up.

Defensor confirmed that all was not well in the Cabinet following the Supreme Court decision throwing out the administration-backed petition for approval of a signature collection campaign to change the Constitution.

"All this finger-pointing has to stop and nobody has to resign. If that has to be resolved, it must be resolved within the Cabinet, especially if there are really deep wounds," he said in a phone interview.

"I'm sure that as grown-ups, we can resolve it among ourselves but it's best to wait for the President," he said.

Ms Arroyo is expected to return from her China trip on Friday.

Defensor confirmed the rift between Cruz and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez after the INQUIRER reported that the defeat of the people's initiative revealed a falling-out between Malacañang and the so-called "The Firm"—the influential law office Villaraza & Angangco founded by Cruz and Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio.

It was Carpio who penned the

CABINET MEN/ A6

GMA seeks Malaysia help in talks with MILF

By Christine O. Avendaño

NANNING, CHINA (VIA PLDT/ Smart)—President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday told Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahman Badawi that the Philippine government was willing to grant a Moro rebel demand on ancestral lands if it conformed to the Constitution in a bid to revive deadlocked peace talks.

Ms Arroyo met with Badawi on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-China summit here to seek Malaysia's assistance in restarting talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) which collapsed in September.

She later got Badawi's pledge to help the Philippine government move forward in its peace initiative, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

Talks between the government and the MILF bogged down over the MILF's demand to include close to 1,000 barangays as part of the Bangsamoro entity without a referendum. Government negotiators rejected the demand, saying it was against the Constitution.

"The President mentioned that we are willing to grant this but this should be done in the framework of the Constitution," Bunye told reporters. "The President hoped this would be properly conveyed to the other side."

Asked if Ms Arroyo asked Badawi to speak to the MILF, Bun-

GMA SEEKS/ A4

PCPO-MALACAÑANG

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is welcomed by Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao before their bilateral talks.

Ninoy, FPJ death masks on display

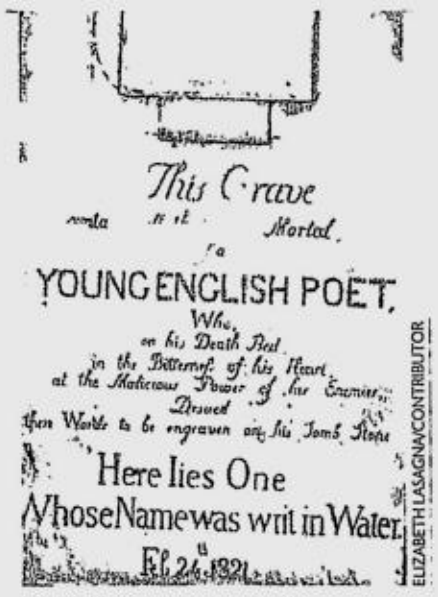
By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

ANGELES CITY—MASKS THAT FREEZE forever the faces of former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and actor Fernando Poe Jr. in death are on display for the first time in a rare exhibit here on Kapampangan death practices.

Cast in fiberglass, the two masks are the creation of National Artist Napoleon Abueva.

The mask-making project followed the ancient tradition of the "*pukpuk*" (silversmith) to honor the dead and preserve their memory, Robby Tantingco, director of the Center for Kapampangan Studies of the Holy Angel University, told

NINOY/ A5



ELIZABETH LASAGNA/CONTRIBUTOR

HERE lies poet John Keats.

Rich, famous share burial place with cats

By Corazon A. Ong
Contributor

CIMETERO ACATTOLICO (NON-Catholic Cemetery) in Rome is a place to die for.

Oscar Wilde tagged it "the holiest place in Rome." With lush plants, towering Mediterranean cypresses, friendly cats and high walls to shield it from the noise of the bustling city, it is the final resting place of English romantic poets John Keats (1795-

RICH, FAMOUS/ A4

Japan says it won't allow toxic waste export to RP

By Nikko Dizon

THE JAPANESE EMBASSY YESTERDAY sought to clarify "some misunderstanding" that the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) would allow the entry of toxic and hazardous waste into the Philippines.

Environmental groups last week slammed the accord which President Macapagal-Arroyo and then Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi signed on Sept. 9 in Helsinki on the sidelines of the Asia-Europe Meeting.

Calls were also made in the Senate, the Philippines' treaty-ratifying body, for hearings on the agreement, following criticism by environmentalists that in exchange for Filipino nurses and caregivers, the country would become Japan's dump.

Malacañang has directed a review of the agreement.

"Judging from the media reports, there seems to be some misunderstanding in the Philippines that toxic and hazardous wastes will be exported from Japan to the Philippines as customs duties of waste materials will be eliminated after the JPEPA comes into effect," the embassy said in a statement.

"The government of Japan has an established legal framework based on the Basel Convention and has been enforcing strict export/import control, which does not allow any export of toxic and hazardous wastes to another country, including the Philippines, unless the government of such a country approves such export.

"Japan remains strongly committed to the strict enforcement of such export/import control, which will prevent

JAPAN SAYS/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western section of Northern and Central Luzon will have rains and gusty winds. Palawan, the western section of Southern Luzon and the rest of Northern and Central Luzon will experince cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/30/06 SOURCE PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

House readies Con-Ass signed by 194 lawmakers

PICHAY: We will go for it. We don't need the approval of the Senate. PDI PHOTO

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE HOUSE MAJORITY ALREADY HAS MORE than the required three-fourths vote of Congress to amend the Constitution through a constituent assembly, a leading congressional ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay said that 194 congressmen—one signature more than the 193 required to change the Charter—had already signed his House Resolution 1285, which proposes to change the country's presidential form of government to a parliamentary system by 2010.

"The requirement of 193 signatures has been met. *Pwede na*(It's done). Definitely, I will go for it," Pichay said.

Pichay said the vote of the Senate, which opposes Charter change, will not be needed if there is already a three-fourth vote in the House of Representatives.

"Congress, once in session, has the power to revise the Constitution" so there is no need to send it to the Senate for approval," Pichay opined.

Senators do not agree with this position and insist that any resolution to change the Constitution must be voted on separately by the two legislative chambers.

"(The opposition) will definitely go to the Supreme Court but I hope the high court will not encroach on our legislative function of amending the Constitution," Pichay said.

"Otherwise, it would be violating the Constitution. You cannot issue a temporary restraining order against a co-equal branch of government," he added.

Pichay argued that the Senate's participation would be needed only if the House did not have the required 193 votes.

"If (the senators) do not participate, then that means that they are not in favor. But what if we have the necessary votes?" he said.

Pichay said that he was just waiting for Congress to resume its session on Nov. 6 so that he could present his resolution as a "substitute" for Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula's two-step version.

Under the Jaraula version, the first part was contained in HR 26, which proposed to convene Congress into a constituent assembly to approve amendments to the Constitution. This was approved by the plenary in November 2005 and sent to the Senate. The second step is HR 1230 which contains the actual proposed amendments to lift economic restrictions and abolish the presidential-bicameral system, replacing it with a parliamentary unicameral system. This has yet to be approved by the plenary and has yet to be sent to the Senate.

Pichay said that he would not allow his resolution to be merged with that of Jaraula, whose version has already been approved by the House committee on constitutional amendments.

Pichay said his proposed amendments had a "good chance" of succeeding compared to those of Jaraula's HR 1230, which also proposes the setting up of an interim parliament that will set the date for the first election under the new system.

Under Pichay's resolution, all current members of Congress will constitute the interim parliament with parliamentary elections to be held on the second Monday of November 2007.

"I cannot allow my version to be consolidated with (the Jaraula resolution) because mine is a 'consensus' resolution," Pichay said, adding that he "talked to each of the 194 congressmen and addressed their concerns before getting their signatures."

Pichay said that although the election season was about to begin, the House still had enough time to push for a constituent assembly.

"We have all the time in the world. We can have the plebiscite during the election," Pichay said.

Good news for delinquent taxpayers

HERE'S GOOD NEWS FOR DELINquent taxpayers.

Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag yesterday extended the One-Time Administrative Abatement Program until Dec. 22 to enable those who failed to settle their accounts during the duration of the program to do so.

The abatement program, which makes it easier for taxpayers to settle their delinquent accounts with the removal of all penalties, including surcharges and interest, was supposed to end today, Oct. 31.

Buñag started the program to enable taxpayers to settle their tax deficiencies and increase the BIR's tax collection.

In Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 63-2006, Buñag said he extended the deadline after some taxpayers encountered delays in filing their applications to join the program in certain areas.

The program covers cases involving delinquent accounts/accounts receivable, second income tax installments, dishonored checks, and administrative protests pending in the BIR and its various offices.

Also covered are assessed cases, whether preliminary or final, as of June 30, 2006; civil tax cases in the Department of Justice and the courts including decided cases which are not yet final and executory, collection cases filed with the courts except in the case of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, and cases with pending requests for compromise settlement, among others.

Cynthia D. Balana

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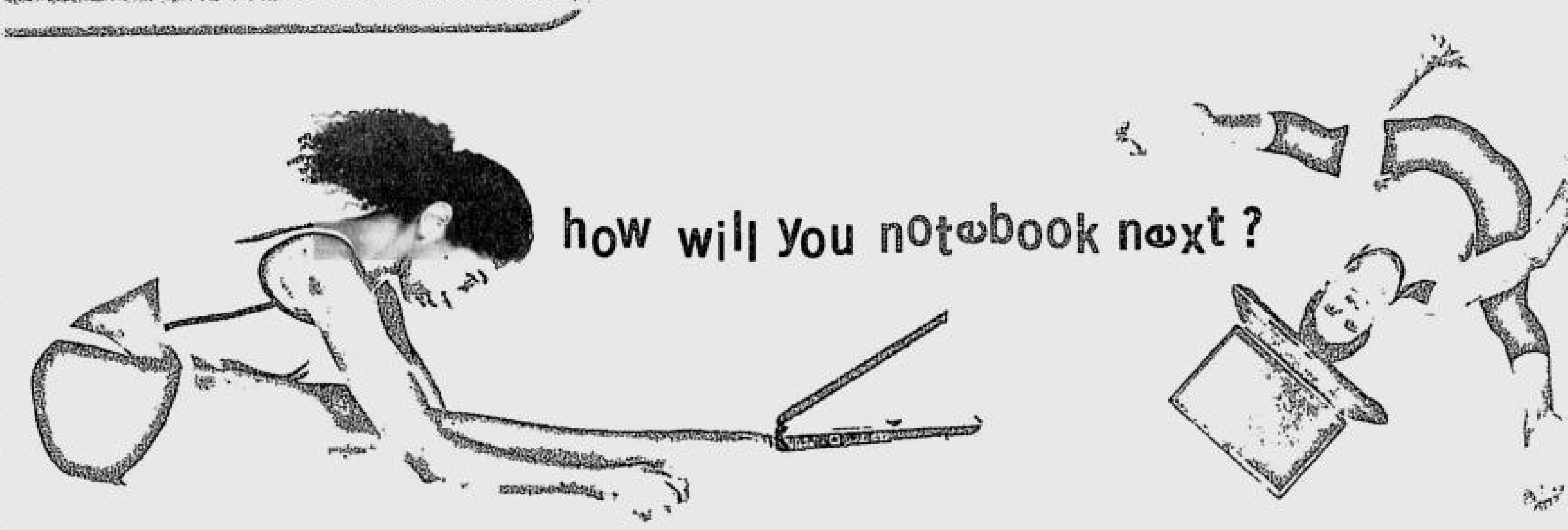

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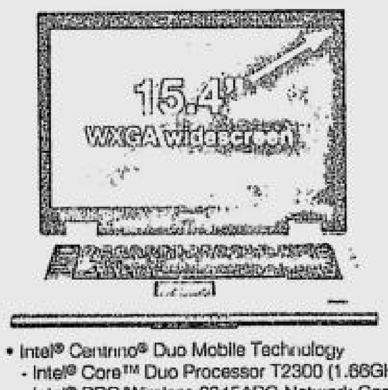

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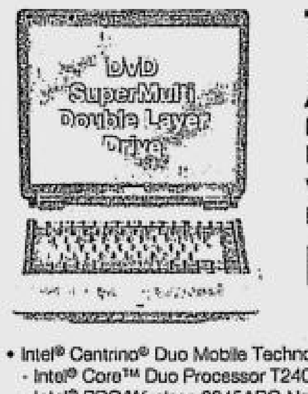

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Erap seeks 3-day pass to visit mom

By Norman Bordadora

DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan for a three-day pass to allow him to spend time with his mother during the All Saints' Day commemoration.

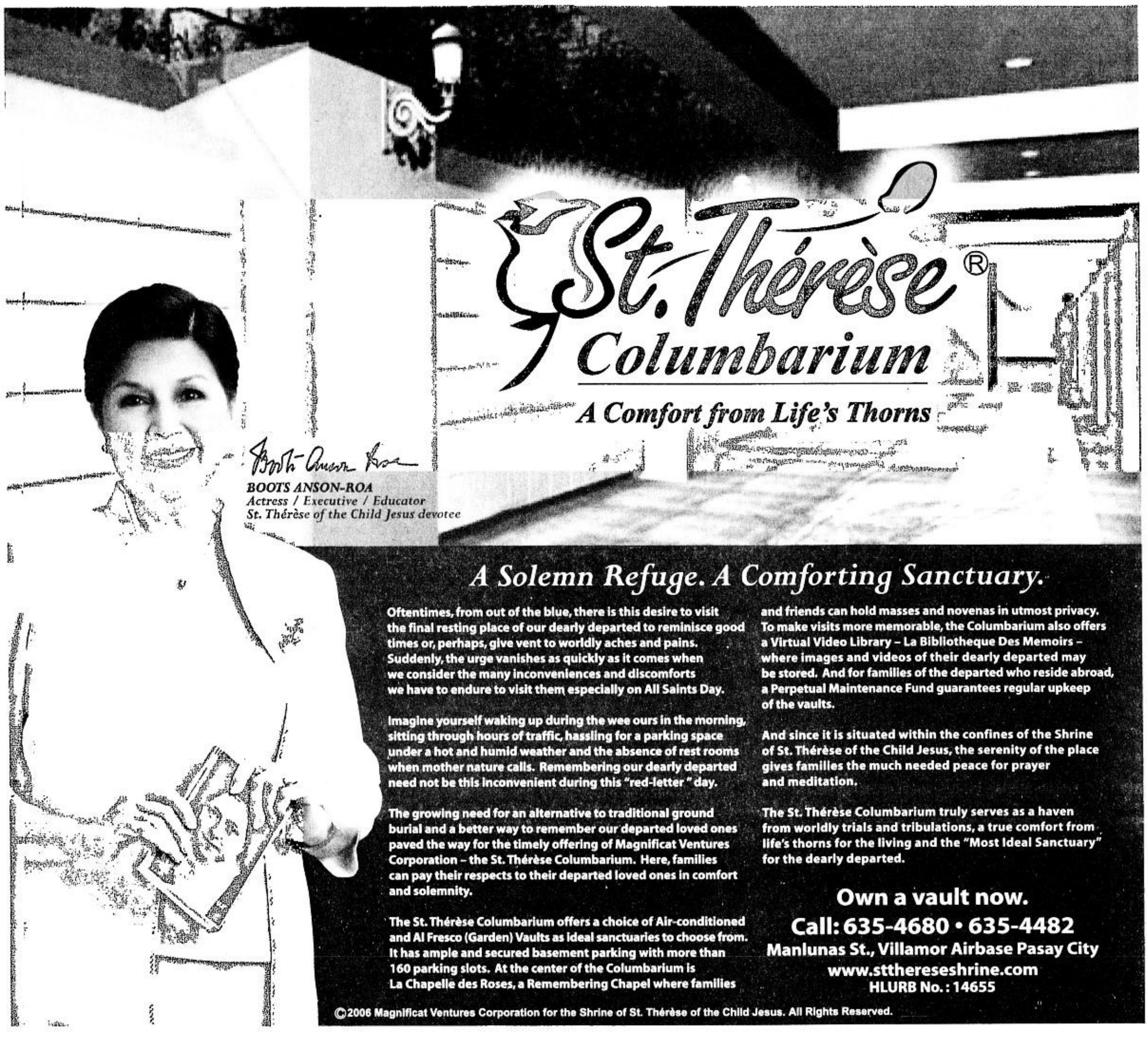
In a two-page motion filed by his lawyer Rene Saguisag, Estrada asked the antigraft court trying him for plunder to let him join his mother, Mary Ejercito, at her Greenhills, San Juan, home at noon of Nov. 1 up to the afternoon of Nov. 3 when he would return to his detention at his Tanay, Rizal, estate.

Estrada said the three-day pass would also enable him to meet with his lawyers on Thursday in order to finalize their formal offer of evidence in his plunder trial.

Approval of Estrada's motion appears certain as the Sandiganbayan last Friday granted his earlier request to be allowed to spend time occasionally with his 102-year-old mother whose health is failing.

The court only required him to file the appropriate motion before each visit in order to give his Philippine National Police custodians adequate notice.

The Sandiganbayan said it granted Estrada's request for regular visits to his mother after considering the grounds for it and the prosecution did not pose an objection. The antigraft court also considered the security and safety concerns associated with each visit.



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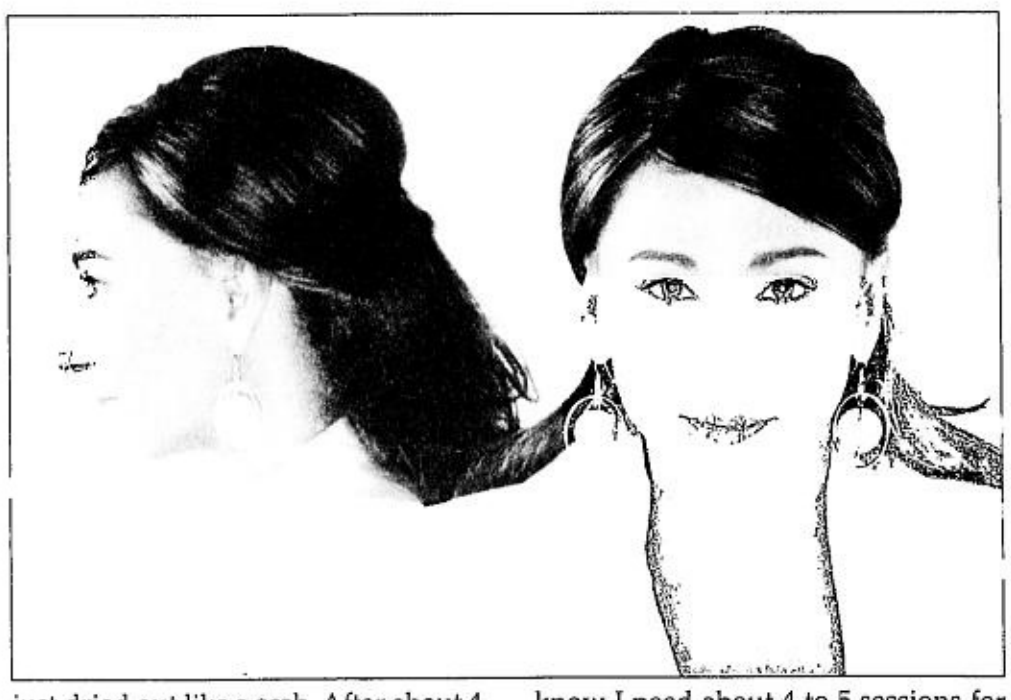
Cherie Gil:

Is Her Face "Retouched?"



With her face gracing countless magazines, billboards and posters, one may question if Cherie Gil's face has ever been "enhanced" by the magic of computer retouching. Yes, Cherie admits to having her face retouched! But not in the way you think. She recently tried Facial Care Centre's newest treatment, Fraxel, which is similar to computer-generated retouching.

"I was in New York last August when I found out about Fraxel, which was actually a big thing in the States," she recalls. "Especially for women who don't like surgery. I was really excited when I learned that it's already offered at Facial Care by the time I came back to Manila."

Unlike surgical lasers that remove the top layer of skin, Fraxel is "fractional." It intensively treats a very small fraction of the skin without affecting any surrounding tissue. The treatment is well-tolerated and feels like slight pin-prick sensations. "The pain was insignificant because an anesthetic cream was applied on my skin prior to my treatment," Cherie imparts. "It wasn't uncomfortable at all. The procedure only took about 30 minutes."

Fraxel works by using a handpiece that is gently guided across the skin like an airbrush. This produces thousands of deep, tiny columns in your skin called "microthermal treatment zones." The process is similar to altering or retouching a photograph pixel by pixel, smoothing out irregularities and blemishes while restoring color and quality.

"I saw a remarkable effect after only the first treatment!" Cherie narrates. "And I'm not saying this just because I'm endorsing Facial Care. As soon as I stepped out of the room after the treatment, I felt my skin and said to myself, 'Boy, it's as smooth as a baby's butt!' And there really was a remarkable difference on my forehead. I used to have deeper lines in this area. In the neck area I felt a tightening also."

After the treatment, I felt my skin and said to myself, "Boy, it's as smooth as a baby's butt!"

Side effects are generally mild. Cherie describes: "An hour later, I felt this mild sunburn sensation and a certain tightness. My skin began to redden, but it just looked like a tan. The day after, the redness lessened. Plus there was a bit of flaking. In fact I had a pimple prior to that treatment and it just dried out like a scab. After about 4 days there wasn't so much redness anymore. The scaling also lessened." Any swelling after a treatment usually subsides after a day or two while the pinkish tone fades over several days. This is a normal sign that the skin is deeply healing, that there's new collagen growth and good blood circulation.

Cherie compares Fraxel to that of another procedure, Thermage: "I've tried Thermage, but I had to be sedated. Though it wasn't really invasive, it was a lot more aggressive than Fraxel. I didn't like being sedated. About 2 days after the treatment, I felt a 'bruised' sensation, as if my face was punched. My skin was swollen for about 2 weeks." She describes Fraxel as a treatment with the results of some effective invasive procedures, but without the need for a surgical process.

On average, an effective Fraxel treatment regimen is up to 5 sessions spaced about 3 to 4 weeks apart. "I know I need about 4 to 5 sessions for maximum results," Cherie says. "That's why I can't wait for the next session to see what will happen to my other lines! I definitely recommend Fraxel to women my age who have some fine lines and pigmentations. I also hear that Fraxel works well on deep scarring and severe acne and surgical scars. So it isn't only an aesthetic necessity but also a medical necessity."

Fraxel dramatically improves skin texture and pore size, erases brown spots, uneven pigmentation problems and smoothes away wrinkles around the eyes. It also rejuvenates the neck, chest and hands, delicate areas often ignored, yet are the most revealing tell-tale signs of aging. It also removes deep, severe scars that cannot be removed by other conventional peels and procedures.

You can look years younger. All you need is a "touch-up" with Fraxel! Call Facial Care Centre now at 892-SKIN (7546) for the latest laser treatment.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, together with their Cabinets, tackle security and economic issues during bilateral talks at the Liyuan Hotel in Nanning, China. PCPO-MALACANANG

Asean backs six-party talks on North Korea

By Christine O. Avendaño

NANNING, CHINA (VIA PLDT/Smart)—The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) yesterday supported calls by the Philippines and China for a resumption of talks aimed at resolving the dispute over North Korea's nuclear program.

"We were impressed by the unanimity of every leader on the issue of North Korea and their resolve to work together to seek a diplomatic solution through the resumption of the six-party talks," said President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Philippine leader co-chaired with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao the one-day China-Asean summit in the southern Chinese city of Nanning.

Ms Arroyo praised China for its role in sponsoring the talks that include North and South Korea, Japan, Russia and the United States as well as Beijing.

In her remarks to the gathering, Ms Arroyo called for a regional approach to peace and security amid apprehensions over North Korea's testing of a nuclear device.

"In the light of recent events in North Korea, regional peace and security have never been more important," she said.

"Asean is not a security organization. It is focused on economic and social integration. Yet this meeting of Asean and Chinese leaders provides a significant forum for discussing security and economic issues. It helps bind the region together and strengthen solidarity in times of crisis," Ms Arroyo said.

Soaring trade, investment

"These are issues that we must focus our attention on," she said, adding that talks on these subjects should continue during the Asean leaders meeting in Cebu in December as they "forge a vision of what the future will be like for the next generation."

Ms Arroyo will chair the Cebu summit as well.

Both Wen and Ms Arroyo lauded soaring trade and investment in the region.

"Relations between China and Asean have never been as good as they are today," Wen said.

Wen met with his counterparts from Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Cambodia on Monday before the summit's opening. Details of those closed-door talks were not available.

Asean's members are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma (Myanmar), the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam—countries ranging from some of the region's most affluent to some of its poorest.

With China, the region is home to 1.8 billion people—more than a quarter of humanity.

Trade between China and Asean, expanding by nearly 40 percent a year, looks likely to exceed $200 billion a year by 2008, even before the China-Asean Free Trade Area is due to be established in 2010.

Last year, trade hit $130.4 billion, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

"We take some pride in helping China become an economic powerhouse," Ms Arroyo said. "China has surged onto the world's stage and Asean has surged with it."

Plans for free trade zone

Preliminary plans were set in 2002 for the free trade area, which will create a market of over a billion consumers and economic activity totaling more than $2 trillion.

Countries have begun slashing tariffs on some products, though tough negotiations continue on loosening trade restrictions for finance and other service industries.

Asean is a key market for Chinese manufacturers, as well as a source of energy, rubber, minerals and other natural resources.

Over the weekend, China and Indonesia signed an energy investment deal worth up to $4.26 billion, media from both countries reported.

China's neighbors see obvious advantages in gaining access to its massive market, Ruan Zongze, vice president of the China Institute of International Studies, wrote in a commentary in the state-run newspaper China Daily.

But despite increasingly cordial business relations, Beijing's relations with Southeast Asia are still dogged by territorial disputes and other issues, he noted.

"The two sides, therefore, should promote mutual trust," Ruan said.

China fought a war with neighboring Vietnam in the late 1970s and has periodically sparred with rival governments over claims to oil reserves and fish-rich islands in the South China Sea.

Code of conduct

Leaders attending yesterday's summit were set to discuss a proposed "code of conduct" to prevent conflicts in disputed South China Sea territories.

China and Asean approved a watered-down 2002 accord aimed at avoiding armed conflicts after Chinese officials rejected proposals for a stronger conduct code that could be perceived as a binding pact, a Filipino diplomat, Benito Valeriano, told reporters last week.

The two sides are trying to devise an improved accord that could be approved when Chinese and Asean leaders meet in December on the sidelines of Asean's annual summit, he said.

The summit also marks the opening of an expo promoting regional trade and investment—an annual event held in Nanning, a city of 6.5 million that is the capital of Guangxi, which borders Vietnam.

Nanning, once a sleepy sugar-trade center, has prospered as China's ties with Vietnam and other neighbors have expanded. The city's skyline is studded with construction cranes, and a new satellite city complete with a Wal-Mart Super Center stands near the expo site.

GMA seeks Malaysia help in talks with MILF

From page A1

ye said: "The President did not make such a detailed request. She just made a general request that the Malaysian government continue to support the peace process and in effect she was saying let's look for ways and means to move the peace talks forward."

But even if the talks are stalled, Ms Arroyo told Badawi that Manila was continuing confidencebuilding measures with the MILF, including putting up a Bangsamoro Development Academy, Bunye said. The academy will train prominent Muslim leaders, he said.

Peace monitors asked to stay

Bunye said that the government hoped to show to the MILF that through this academy, it was serious about dealing with them "in good faith."

Ms Arroyo also thanked Badawi for the continued presence of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) which, she said, had been "instrumental in keeping the peace on the ground."

"She hoped that the IMT will continue to be there although on the side, the Malaysian prime minister said that some of them are already asking when they can come home," Bunye said.

Peace despite deadlock

"We got the sense that the IMT will be there as long as needed. Maybe they'll have to make their own administrative arrangements with regards to those who have been there already for a long period," said Bunye, who attended the meeting between the two leaders at the Liyuan hotel in Nanning.

He said Ms Arroyo was "heartened by the fact that the peace on the ground is holding" and that was "why the IMT needs to be there."

Badawi told Ms Arroyo that "he was as eager as everybody to move forward, and the farther we move, it will be good for all," Bunye said.

"The prime minister mentioned that in the past we have offered to support some projects like palm oil. This has been stalled because of the situation on the ground and he expressed regret on this missed opportunity," he said.

"So he said in the end that they will do whatever we can to keep the peace talks moving," Bunye said.

Rich, famous share burial place with cats

From page A1

1821) and Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822). Shelley's son is also buried in the cemetery.

Keats succumbed to tuberculosis while Shelley drowned in a sailing accident.

Shelley liked the place so much he wrote: "It might make one in love with death, to think that one should be buried in so sweet a place."

Founded in 1734, Cimetero Acattolico has also been called the Protestant or English Cemetery, which is quite a misnomer because not only Protestants and British nationals are buried there but also Orthodox Christians, Jews, Americans, Russians, Swedes, Czechs, Greeks and Germans, among others.

I even saw one tombstone with Chinese characters engraved on it.

The first known burial, based on the oldest tomb found in the cemetery, was that of an Oxford student named Langton in 1738.

The cemetery is divided into two sections—to the left of the entrance is the older part where the plot containing the tombs of Keats, his artist friend Joseph Severn and Arthur Severn, the 8-month-old son of Joseph, could be seen. Severn took care of Keats when he became ill.

Antonio Gramsci

Opposite the entrance on a sloping terrain and spreading all the way to the right is the new section (opened in 1822) which, unlike the old one, looked packed and crowded.

Susan Cahill, editor of the book "The Smiles of Rome," notes that "the most visited grave in this section—there's always a pile of notes and mementos on top of it—is Antonio Gramsci's (1891-1937)." He founded the Italian Communist Party.

Other luminaries include Johan Ackerblad, Swedish archeologist who helped decipher the Rosetta Stone; Hendrik Christian Andersen (1872-1940), sculptor friend of Henry James; Karl Briullov (1799-1852), Russian painter; Gregory Corso (1930-2001), American beat generation poet; August von Goethe (1789-1830), son of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe; and William Wetmore Story (1819-95), American sculptor, who did the Angel of Grief sculpture for his wife Emelyn. (He would be buried beside her with his masterpiece—a life-size angel on its knees with bowed head and arms draped over the tomb.)

Name writ in water

The tombstone of Keats does not carry his name. Had his wish been followed, his epitaph would be far shorter and simpler than what it became for posterity, containing just this phrase: "Here lies one whose name was writ in water."

But his friends, Severn and Charles Brown, who felt bad about the way some quarters mistreated Keats' poetry, added their own thoughts, albeit with bitterness, producing the following final version:

This Grave / contains all that was Mortal / of a / YOUNG ENGLISH POET / Who, / on his Death Bed, / in the Bitterness of his Heart, / at the Malicious Power of his Enemies, / Desired / these Words to be engraven on his Tomb Stone / "Here lies One / Whose Name was writ in Water." / Feb. 24th 1821

Keats doubtless is the No. 1 tourist attraction in the cemetery. In much the same way that people would go straight to where Mona Lisa is in the Louvre, visitors to Cimetero Acattolico would head straight to Keats' tomb.

For those who happen to reach the cemetery when it is closed, a small opening in one of the walls has been strategically provided—one could peep through the opening and be rewarded with a full view of the poet's tomb.

A marker on Keats is also prominently displayed which contains the following homage:

K-eats! If thy cherished name be "writ in water" / E-ach drop has fallen from some mourner's cheek; / A-sacred tribute such as heroes seek / T-hough oft in vain—for dazzling deeds of slaughter / S-leep on! Not honoured less for Epitaph so meek!

Cats

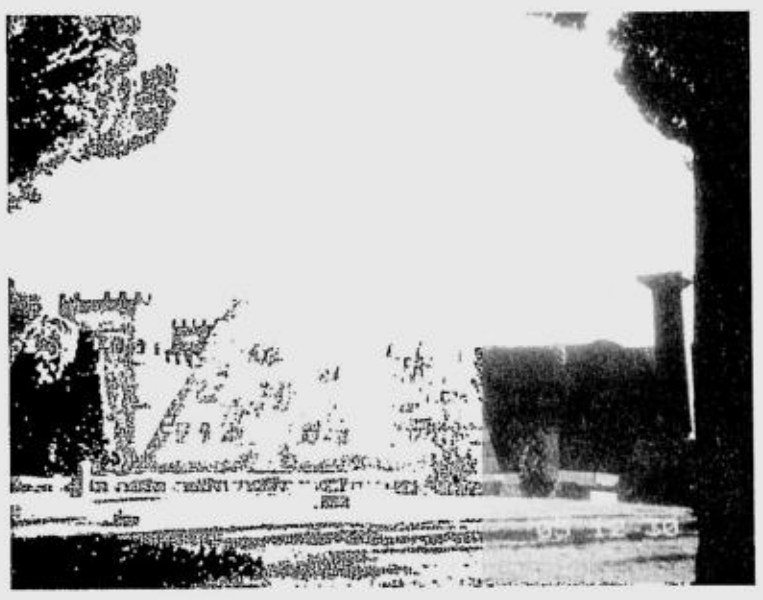
Apart from being the burial place for the rich and famous, however, Cimetero Acattolico is also home to an increasing number of unwanted and abandoned cats.

Called the "Guardians of the Departed," the cats have found the serenity and lush vegetation of the cemetery to their liking. They weave in and out of the bushes and would oftentimes follow you or even settle on your lap, given the chance to do so.

A special note on the brochure distributed by the Anglo-Italian Society for the Protection of Animals (Aispa), a group of animal volunteers who take care of the cats, explains the friendly nature of the feline community in the area: "The cats you see are friendly. If they approach you, they are usually looking to be petted. Rabies is nonexistent in Italy."

Before Aispa came into the picture, however, there was Matilde Talli, who took pity of the unwanted cats—many of them sick, injured in vehicular accidents or malnourished. She financed their regular visits to the veterinarians. She continues to help in whatever way she can.

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever," Keats wrote. He could very well be referring to Cimetero Acattolico, which has been added to the World Monument Fund's 2006 Watch List of the 100 most endangered sites on earth. Despite its deterioration, the cemetery remains hauntingly beautiful and continues to give joy to anyone who comes and visits it.



THE PYRAMID, one of Rome's famous landmarks, stands guard at Cimetero Acattolico. ELIZABETH LASAGNA/CONTRIBUTOR

Japan says it won't allow toxic waste export to RP

From page A1

any illegal export of toxic and hazardous wastes to the Philippines," the statement read.

The embassy said that on Oct. 27, Japan's minister of economy, trade and industry and Philippine Trade Secretary Peter Favila met to reaffirm "the commitment of the two governments to enforce strict control on the export/import of toxic and hazardous wastes in accordance with the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal."

Japan and the Philippines are signatories to the international convention hammered out in the Swiss city of Basel to stop the unfettered dumping of toxic waste, mainly in Africa.

The embassy said that Japan and the Philippines shared "the view that JPEPA would be conducive to the further increase of trade and investment between the two countries and thus further promote the bilateral relations."

"The Government of Japan, therefore, sincerely hopes that the JPEPA will come into force at the earliest possible date," it said, describing the agreement as an "important step forward" for the two countries.

Ninoy, FPJ death masks ...

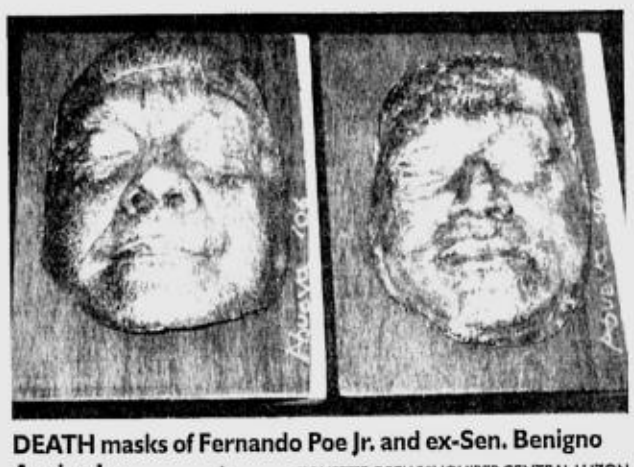
From page A1

the INQUIRER.

Tantingco said early Filipinos beat gold, flattened it into sheets, and contoured it to resemble a dead person's face.

A death mask discovered in Oton, Iloilo, attests to that long gone tradition, he said.

The general craft of the *pukpuk* is alive in Apalit, Pampanga, the hometown of Filipino hero Panday Pira, a maker of cannons, weapons and farm implements who died in 1576.



DEATH masks of Fernando Poe Jr. and ex-Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Tantingco said it was an honor for the center to exhibit the death masks.

He said Aquino and Poe were "two great Filipinos, both opposition leaders, whose deaths altered the course of history, and both had Kapampangan blood in them."

"The fact that the death masks were done by Abueva makes them even more important," he added.

Churches closed

Aquino, a native of Concepcion, Tarlac, was assassinated at the Manila International Airport on Aug. 21, 1983, as he returned to end a life of exile in the United States and resume the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship.

Poe, whose roots on the maternal side were in Candaba and Lubao towns in Pampanga, died on Dec. 14, 2004, from a ruptured artery in the brain.

The movie actor-director, who was named National Artist for Film, challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2004 elections but lost amid opposition allegations that Ms Arroyo cheated.

Churches where the wakes for Aquino and Poe were held were briefly closed to the public hours before they were buried to enable Abueva to make the casts, "of course, with the consent of the families," Tantingco said.

Better than photographs

In the transcript of an interview with the center last month, Abueva, 76, said he made Poe's death mask, using plaster of Paris for the mold, about six hours before the funeral Mass.

It took him 40 minutes to finish the mold.

"I was very impressed with the multitudes paying homage to Poe. He was an outstanding Filipino," Abueva said in the transcript.

The masks, part of ancient funerary beliefs and practices, are more accurate than photographs that are flat, he said.

Lincoln and Dante

Other historical figures who have death masks are Abraham Lincoln, Dante, Beethoven and Napoleon Bonaparte.

Part of the exhibit "Kematen (On Death)," the death masks of Poe and Aquino can be viewed from Oct. 31 up to Nov. 30. After that, these would be on permanent display at the center.

The monthlong exhibit also features more than 20 rare sepia photographs of wakes and funerals from the collection of advertising executive Alex Castro, and prehistoric burial sites reconstruction by anthropologist Joel Mallari.

Fray Francis Musni's collection of 25 Kapampangan euphemisms for the phrase "the person is dead" or "has died" is also on exhibit.

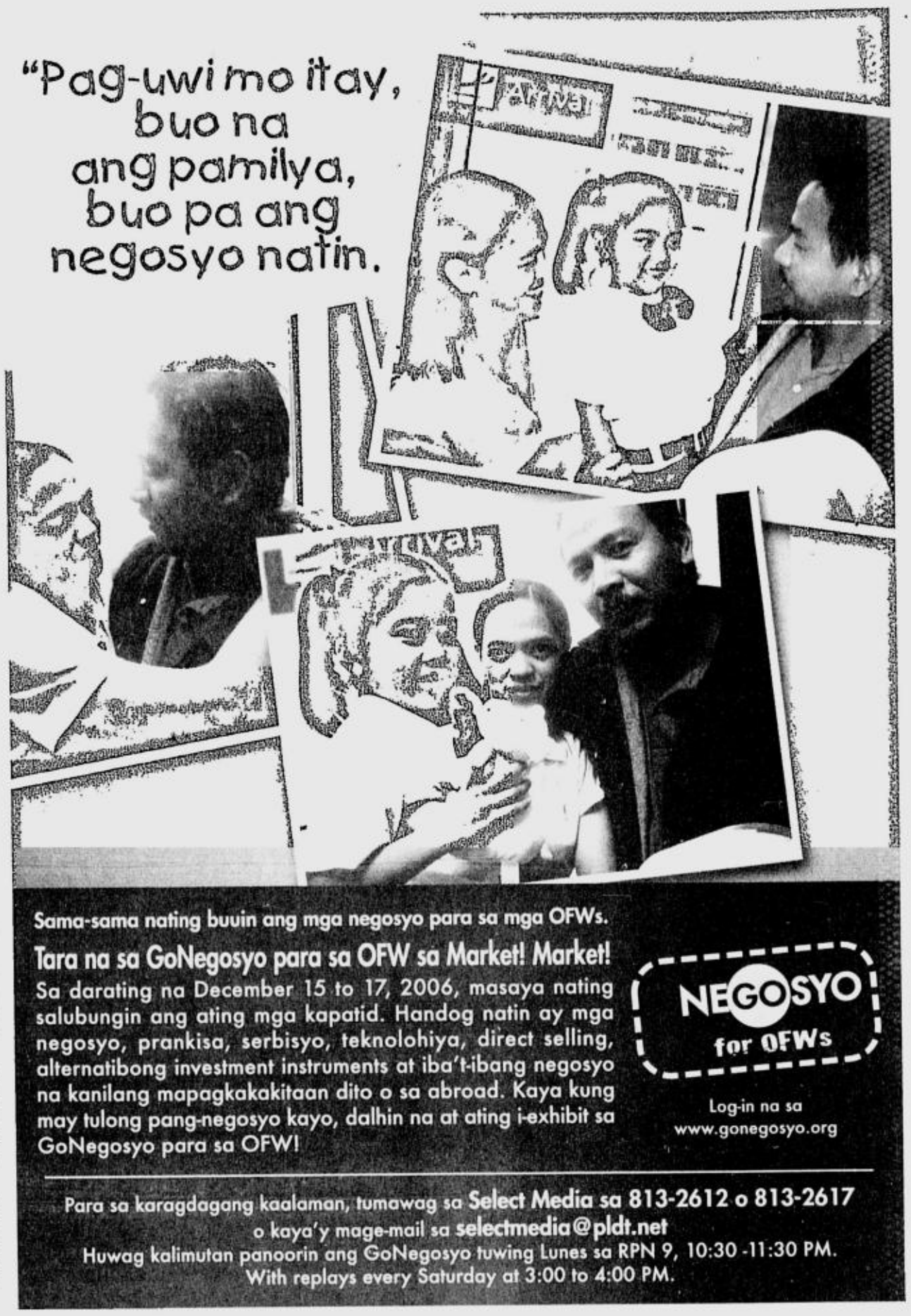
Coping with death

There are also audio recordings of the "*gosu*," similar to the western world's Halloween trick-or-treat, and the "*bulaklakan*," a game of riddles played during wakes.

Musni, the center's archivist, said these rituals help the Kapampangan "cope with death by visually reinforcing the fact that the person is dead, therefore shortening the denial period and hastening the process of acceptance."

By tradition, Kapampangans troop to cemeteries on Nov. 1 (All Saints' Day), not on Nov. 2 (All Souls' Day) "because feast days and holy days are always celebrated on the eve or the night before, more than on the day itself," Tantingco said.

"So we pray for the dead on the night before All Souls' Day, in the same way we celebrate All Saints' Day the night before, on Oct. 31, which is Halloween. Halloween is a contraction of All Hallows' Eve, the eve of the feast of hallowed or holy people, or saints," he said.



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'Paeng' weakens, exits RP

From page A1

Madre, it weakened but only just a little bit. When it ran into the Cordillera, that's when it weakened considerably," he said.

The supertyphoon slammed into northern Luzon as a maximum category 5 storm—technically the same strength as Hurricane Katrina that devastated New Orleans in 2005.

Cruz said Paeng made landfall over Aurora at 9 p.m. on Sunday with sustained winds of 195 kph. It weakened to 175 kph by 4 a.m. yesterday.

When it exited Luzon through La Union at 11 a.m. yesterday, its wind velocity had further weakened to 120 kph and its gusts to 150 kph, according to the weather bureau.

In the upland town of Kasibu in Nueva Vizcaya, residents woke up Monday to the sight of families in Barangay Poblacion desperately scouring the swollen Magat River for lost livestock, house parts and appliances.

Many of the families, however, were just thankful that they got out of their houses in time before the fast-moving waters of the river eroded the banks and their houses.

Residents traveling to and from the town had to walk through several meters of mud after a portion of the mountain road in Barangay Antutot was cut off due to strong water flow.

In Bagabag town, it was déjà vu for two families who were trapped on river islets along the swollen Magat River, barely a year after they were rescued from the same area.

But there was no available boat for the two families on Monday morning. The only rubber boat in the province was dispatched to Barangay Lamo in Dupax del Norte, where residents waded through chest-deep floodwaters.

Swept away

Four people in Barangay Macalong in Kasibu were swept away by the current while they were asleep.

Of the 14 people reported killed as the typhoon slammed the northern and central areas of Luzon, nine were from Nueva Vizcaya and Isabela.

Five people were killed in Dinapigue town in Isabela while 15 others were injured as the water level in the Magat Dam in Ramon town rose to 191.50 meters, way beyond its normal level of 174 meters.

In Angadanan town, also in Isabela, Ryan Calaoagan, 17, drowned when his boat capsized in the Magat River on Sunday. His body was found in nearby Cauayan City.

In Benguet, Judy Ann Andiso, 4, and her mother Julie were sleeping when their house on a mountain slope in Buguias, Benguet, collapsed. Julie was rushed to the Lepanto Mines Hospital in Mankayan town for treatment.

Buried in landslide

Agpawan Alyong, 53, was buried in a landslide in Lubuagan town in Kalinga.

A 28-year-old mother and her 6-year-old daughter drowned on Sunday night after strong waves whipped by Paeng's winds washed away their hut on the coast of Dilasag in northern Aurora. They were identified as Jocelyn and Iza Viares of Barangay Dimaseset in Dilasag.

Aurora

Aurora took the brunt of the typhoon. Floods rose waist-deep as of 4 a.m. yesterday in Dilasag, Casiguran and Dinalungan.

A province-wide blackout began at 11 p.m. on Sunday. Electricity had not been restored as of 3 p.m. yesterday.

More than 300 families in Casiguran and 65 others from Dinalungan evacuated to the town centers to escape rising floodwaters. They began returning to their villages before lunch time.

Ramon Aquino, public works regional director, said Paeng's winds blew the roofs off seven school buildings, a health center and barangay hall in Pangitahan, also in Dilasag.

The Baler-Casiguran and Baler-Bongabon roads in Aurora were not passable due to landslides, Aquino said. The only access route to Aurora was the Pantabangan-Canili Road via Nueva Ecija.

Cagayan

In Cagayan, continuous rains since Sunday swelled the Cagayan River and its tributaries. Gov. Edgar Lara advised residents of Enrile, Alcala, Amulung and Iguig towns to take precautions as the Cagayan River continued to rise.

Tuguegarao City Mayor Randolph Ting readied schools to accommodate displaced residents from villages living along the Cagayan and Pinacanauan rivers.

The Capatan bridge and the Tawi bridge were under water, isolating most eastern villages of Tuguegarao and Peñablanca town.

Agriculture officials said the floods added to the misery of farmers whose crops were destroyed by previous typhoons.

On Malacañang's instructions to ban travel to provinces under Storm Signal Nos. 3 and 4, police stopped motorists on their way to the Ilocos region and Cagayan Valley in Tarlac and in San Jose City in Nueva Ecija. Many of them either turned back or waited for the typhoon to pass.

Quirino

Quirino may have to live without electricity for at least two more days due to the damage caused by the typhoon to power lines, said Nelson Macato, general manager of Quirino Electric Cooperative Inc.

Residents of Maddela and Nagtipunan towns were isolated from the rest of the province after a five-meter portion of the national highway was destroyed by the raging waters of the Tungcab River in Barangay Villa Sur in Maddela, according to Board Member Eleazar Balderas.

Balderas said the strong winds destroyed hundreds of hectares of banana plants.

Cordillera

In Baguio City, three people were hurt when their shanty on Ambuklao Road in Barangay Tiptop collapsed because of the continuous rains. They were Mylene Medina, 29, and her daughters Angelica, 9, and Danica, 5.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, who met with members of the Cordillera Regional Disaster Coordinating Council, said the major concern for the region was the loss of power since Sunday in Kalinga and Ifugao and parts of Apayao, Abra, Benguet and Mt. Province.

Kalinga was hardest hit when about 50 houses were damaged by the rains. More than 200 families evacuated to two elementary schools there.

Landslides closed to traffic the Cabugao Bridge and Claveria-Calanasan roads in Apayao, Balbalan-Pinukpuk Road in Kalinga, and the Mt. Province-Cagayan Road in Ifugao.

In La Trinidad town, the vegetable trading post went into full gear as 19 trucks hauled vegetables for Metro Manila, said Augusta Balanoy, Benguet Traders and Truckers Association executive secretary.

"Rain or no rain, the truckers must bring vegetables to Metro Manila to meet the huge demand as All Saints' Day is fast approaching," she said. *(See related story in Across the Nation, Page A13.)*

Ilocos Norte

Paeng's strong winds spared Laoag City, Ilocos Norte's capital, as no damage or casualties were reported.

The City Disaster Coordinating Council kept vigil at City Hall beginning Sunday night to provide relief and assistance to typhoon victims.

Roads connecting Ilocos Norte and Cagayan Valley to Ilocos Sur were all passable.

In Pangasinan, disaster officials said Dagupan City and the Sta. Barbara-Urdaneta City Highway were flooded. Business was slow as residents opted to stay home.

Officials said 394 people were evacuated from the island Barangay of Mindoro in Bangar, La Union. Three families in San Fernando City were also moved to safer ground.

Bulacan

In Bulacan, the water elevation in Angat Dam rose due to the rains brought by Paeng. As of Monday morning, the water level was 193.16 meters, up from 192 meters on Friday.

Rodolfo Santos, head of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council, said continuous rains in the last two days might further raise the dam's water level.

In Olongapo City, winds damaged some electric posts, cutting power to Barangays Gordon Heights, Kalaklan and Old Cabalan.

Three Asian Spirit flights bound for northern Luzon were cancelled early Monday.

Manila International Airport Authority officials said Asian Spirit's morning flights to Basco in Batanes, Baguio and San Fernando in La Union were grounded. *With reports from Cristina Arzadon, Estanislao Caldez, Delmar Cariño, Frank Cimatu, Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Melvin Gascon and Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon; Russell Arador, Allan Macatuno, Carmela Reyes and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Dona Pazzibugan and Riza T. Olchondra in Manila*

Cabinet men in row . . .

From page A1

strongly worded Supreme Court decision calling the signature campaign a "gigantic fraud."

"There was a misunderstanding (between some Cabinet officials) after the defeat of the people's initiative because of the issue of The Firm supposedly being behind the (court decision) and the talk about some people being on the way out," Defensor said.

"*So noong nagtitirahan na, nagkaroon ng samaan ng loob* (After words were exchanged, there were hurt feelings on both sides)," he added. "That (story on The Firm) was the root of the quarrel."

Gonzalez agrees

He said the story apparently prompted Cruz to come out in public and say that three colleagues in the Cabinet wanted him out because of his opposition to the initiative and his links to The Firm.

Defensor said that after their phone talk on Sunday on the need for the parties to back off, Ermita got in touch with Gonzalez, who agreed to also keep quiet.

Gonzalez may have created the controversy when he commented that there appeared to be a "big law firm that is cheering" the administration's defeat in the Supreme Court.

"We all agreed to keep quiet on this and to concentrate on the relief operations and rehabilitation of areas affected by the supertyphoon," Defensor said.

Santiago's view

He said that Cruz should, in particular, stop talking because he heads the National Disaster Coordinating Council which is in charge of disaster management.

A smiling Cruz parried reporters' questions when he presided over an NDCC meeting but an official close to him said Cruz was fed up with being blamed for the defeat of the people's initiative.

"They lost face before the President. Now they're looking for a scapegoat. They're blaming Nonong Cruz for not helping," said the official, who asked not to be named because he was not allowed to speak to the media.

Until the rift within the Cabinet spilled out to the media, Cruz had avoided speaking publicly about his position against the people's initiative.

"Although he was averse to the idea, he kept quiet," the official told the INQUIRER, adding that Ms Arroyo was aware of Cruz's position and did not reproach him for it.

The official said Cruz also was unhappy over how some Cabinet members were trying to drive a wedge between him and the President.

"If ever he leaves, it will be on his own terms. Don't push him around," the official added.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, a staunch ally of the President, said Cruz's public statements on his opposition to the initiative and his quarrel with colleagues were a "danger signal" that could necessitate his resignation from the defense post.

Although she was not aware of any plans to drop Cruz from the Cabinet, Santiago recalled that some Palace officials were disappointed with the low profile Cruz took during the February coup attempt.

"In Malacañang circles, there was disappointment with Secretary Cruz's performance during the February coup … There was an impression among Cabinet members that he may have been purposely invisible when the President was being besieged," she said in a phone interview.

Santiago said that while feuds "are characteristic of all Cabinets," the President might have to ask Cruz to explain why he had openly taken a position contrary to her policy in support of the people's initiative.

"While differences of opinion can be tolerated by an extremely strong President, it is a danger signal to a President who is buffeted by strong winds of criticism and resistance," Santiago said. "She cannot have a Cabinet member whose world view is vastly different from hers."

Cruz's job

Bohol Rep. Eladio Jala, chair of the House committee on government enterprises and privatization, said Cruz was "creating unnecessary intrigue in the Cabinet" by claiming that three Cabinet members wanted him out.

Some senators cautioned Malacañang against sacking Cruz.

"His removal from his position in light of the fact that he's pushing for reforms could be a political blow to the political situation of the administration," Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said.

Sen. Ralph Recto said: "It will be a pity if they make a scapegoat out of a sage. And what he's been saying makes sense: That it's time for the administration to call a tactical retreat on Charter change, to change strategy because the last one was flawed, to cut losses so it can fight another day," he said. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Philip C. Tubeza and TJ Burgonio*

Sandiganbayan clears Binay of graft charge

From page A1

priced furniture and fittings from 1999 to 2001 for the new Makati City Hall.

The antigraft court's Third Division junked the complaint—filed by the Ombudsman—for lack of probable cause even before Binay could be formally arraigned.

The court said the complaint failed to cite facts showing bad faith on the part of Binay and his alleged conspirators in the city government and among the private respondents who supplied the furniture worth more than P60 million.

It was alleged that the furniture was overpriced by more than P9 million.

"The information is devoid of any particulars as to how this figure was arrived at," the court said.

On Oct. 17, Malacañang tried to dislodge Binay from his post by ordering his preventive suspension over allegations by a political rival that he and 16 other Makati officials were keeping hundreds of "ghost employees" on the city payroll.

Two days later, as Binay put up a defiant stand, the Court of Appeals granted his plea for a temporary restraining order stopping the administration from evicting him from City Hall.

Binay told supporters then that that was just "Round 1" and that he also hoped for victory should there be a Round 2.

"Clearly, the insufficiency of the information is manifest from the lack of factual averments in the complaint," read the five-page resolution of the Sandiganbayan's Third Division chaired by Associate Justice Godofredo Legaspi.

Others accused in the dismissed graft case included then city officials Nicanor Santiago, Luz Yamane, Ernesto Aspillaga, several Jane and John Does, and contractor-firm executives Li Yee Shing, Jason Li and Vivian Edurise.

The Ombudsman alleged that the accused conspired through a rigged bidding to cause the award of the furniture purchase to Office Gallery International Inc.

A separate case involving the same supposedly overpriced furniture filed against Binay's wife, Elenita, who was mayor from 1998 to 2001, is pending before the four other divisions of the Sandiganbayan.

Too much energy drink may zap you, say experts

From page A1

tract fan mail on their own MySpace pages. They spawn urban legends. They get reviewed by bloggers. And they taste like carbonated cough syrup.

Vying for the dollars of teenagers with promises of weight loss, increased endurance and legal highs, the new products join top sellers Red Bull, Monster and Rockstar to make up a $3.4-billion-a-year industry that grew by 80 percent last year.

Thirty-one percent of US teenagers say they drink energy drinks, according to Simmons Research. That represents 7.6 million teenagers, a jump of almost 3 million in three years.

Jolt-and-crash cycle

Nutritionists warn that the drinks, laden with caffeine and sugar, can hook kids on an unhealthy jolt-and-crash cycle. The caffeine comes from multiple sources, making it hard to tell how much the drinks contain. Some have B vitamins, which when taken in megadoses can cause rapid heartbeat, as well as numbness and tingling in the hands and feet.

But the biggest worry is how some teens use the drinks. Some report downing several cans in a row to get a buzz, and a new study found a surprising number of calls to poison centers from young people getting sick from too much caffeine.

Most brands target male teens and 20-somethings, according to Brian Greenberg, a marketing consultant and an assistant professor of marketing at Elizabethtown College.

Red Bull history

Red Bull founder Dietrich Mateschitz based his product on tonics sold in Asia. He started selling Red Bull in 1987 in Austria, his native country. Today, he sells 2.5 billion cans a year in more than 130 nations. The industry leader grabbed more than 37 percent of the US market last year, according to Beverage Digest.

Rumors have swirled around Red Bull for years. No evidence, however, was ever found that sudden deaths in Ireland and Sweden were caused by people drinking Red Bull.

The Swedish government studied energy drinks and recommended they not be used to quench thirst or replenish liquid when exercising. And they should not be mixed with alcohol.

Too late. Anheuser-Busch and Miller Brewing now produce several "energy beers" Â—beer containing caffeine. And Red Bull and vodka Â—mixed up by bartenders who call it a Friday Flattener or a Dirty Pompadour Â—has been popular for a decade. On Red Bull's MySpace page, the product's 11,000 "friends" include alcohol products, which also have their own MySpace pages.

A Brazilian study found college students didn't feel as drunk as they actually were after drinking vodka and Red Bull. Their perception of their coordination and reaction time didn't match objective tests.

Accidents and poisoning

The potential for accidents and alcohol poisoning worries Dr. Sandra Braganza, a pediatrician and nutrition expert at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore in New York. As she prepared to write an article about energy drinks for a pediatrics journal, she was surprised how little published research she could find on them.

"The truth is, we don't know what kind of effects these ingredients can have," Braganza said of taurine, glucuronolactone and guarana. "We have to start doing more studies on this."

Earlier this month, a new study found a surprising number of caffeine overdose reports to a Chicago poison control center. These involved young people taking alertness pills such as NoDoz or energy drinks, sometimes mixed with alcohol or other drugs. During three years of reports to the center, the researchers found 265 cases of caffeine abuse. Twelve percent of those required a trip to the hospital. The average age of the caffeine user was 21.

"Young people are taking caffeine to stay awake, or perhaps to get high, and many of them are ending up in the emergency department," said Dr. Danielle McCarthy of the Northwestern University, who conducted the study. "Caffeine is a drug and should be treated with caution, as any drug is."

Amount of caffeine

How much caffeine do energy drinks contain? A University of Florida study found that some products, although served in cans two-thirds the size of a standard can of Coke, contain two to four times the amount of caffeine as that of Coke. Energy drinks are unregulated in the United States, but the authors of the University of Florida paper suggest warning labels for them.

And now, energy drinks are moving toward bigger cans with some products raising the caffeine content to gain a competitive edge, said John Sicher of Beverage Digest. The biggest, so far, is 24 ounces.

"My message to parents is moderation," said Molly Morgan, a dietitian in upstate New York who consults with schools and talks to students, parents and coaches about energy drinks. "That means one can a day or less, and view it as a treat, not part of a daily routine."

Buying the message

Full of sugar and caffeine, energy drinks share the same health problems as soft drinks, according to Morgan. But some parents and coaches have bought the message that the drinks can enhance kids' performance in sports and increase concentration in school.

The evidence is weak, involving tiny studies. British research by a scientist who has since received funding from Red Bull found that among 36 volunteers, those who drank the product improved aerobic endurance and recalled numbers better. A British study of 42 people found Red Bull had no effect on memory, but did improve attention and verbal reasoning.

'Nutrition for Dummies'

Carol Ann Rinzler, author of "Nutrition for Dummies," said the labels "simply don't deliver all the facts."

"For example, while all list caffeine as an ingredient, and most tell you exactly how much caffeine is in the drink, they also list guarana, a caffeine source, as a separate ingredient but don't tell how much caffeine one gets from the guarana," Rinzler said.

According to her, energy drinks also deliver a huge hit of sugar. "Drink more than one and you get lots of sugar Â—14 teaspoons in two cans, 21 teaspoons in three," she said.

Add in megadoses of some vitamins; unnecessary nutrients (taurine) and more caffeine than plain sodas and you get "a fast up-and-down sugar high and a really rough caffeine buzz," she said. "And drinking two or three cans a day for a period of weeks or months might trigger some side effects from the vitamin megadoses."

New brands

New brands are appearing at the rate of almost one per day, making it difficult for Denver blogger Dan Mayer to keep up with his review of each new energy drink he can find.

When Mayer meets an energy drink he doesn't like, his words can sting: "This is the kind of drink that was created by a bunch of rich fat people that have never had an energy drink in their life and really don't understand why this fad is around, they just know they want to be a part of the profit from it."

Pressed to explain the appeal of energy drinks, the 24-year-old spokesperson for the buzzed generation said: "It's Starbucks for kids. With the tons of caffeine they put into these things, it gives you a little legal form of speed essentially." *AP*

1st chief of PNP dies; 65

THE FIRST CHIEF OF the Philippine National Police died early Monday morning.

Reports reaching Camp Crame said former police general Cesar Nazareno died of an aneurysm. He was 65 years old.

Nazareno led the organization in its transition from a branch of the military to a national police force from 1990 to 1992.

With the passing of Republic Act No. 6975 in 1990, the PNP was established with a distinct civilian character.

Nazareno is a member of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1961.

"He is remembered as a man of unwavering loyalty who offered no compromises for organizational discipline in the ranks. This undying legacy of his will be passed on to succeeding generation of officers and personnel of the PNP," said PNP Chief Dir. Gen. Oscar Calderon.

Nazareno's remains will lie in state at the PNP's Multi-Purpose Hall in Camp Crame, the headquarters of the PNP. *Alcuin Papa*

Gov't allots P1.12B for scholarships to 76,000 students

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SET ASIDE P1.12 BILLION to provide scholarships to more than 76,000 students next year, House Deputy Majority Leader Eduardo Gullas announced on Monday.

Gullas, an educator, said the scholarship fund was contained in the P1.12-trillion national budget for 2007 that was recently passed by the House of Representatives.

The scholarships, particularly those to be granted by the Department of Science and Technology, aim to build up the country's scientific and technological manpower.

Gullas outlined some of the highlights of the scholarship program:

- P441 million for the scholarship program of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) to sponsor a total of 34,475 college students.
- P341 million for the Science Education Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to support 10,598 scholars.
- P69.7 million for the Philippine Science High School, which is under the DOST, to subsidize 3,264 scholars.
- P200 million for the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) to finance 13,800 students enrolled in private vocational schools.
- P72.6 million for the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to provide tuition and allowances to 13,989 students from cultural communities.

He said a total of 11,989 students benefited from the NCIP's educational aid scheme in 2005.

However, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño earlier criticized the CHEd's scholarship program, saying that Malacañang was using it to pay its political debts to congressmen who junked the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He charged that beneficiaries of CHEd's new, P187 million one-time Emergency Financial Assistance for Students (E-FAST), released early this year, were chosen by administration allies in Congress.

No pro-impeachment lawmaker seemed to be on the list of 187 representatives who were assigned P1 million each, he added.

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Mon Cole Knight	Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	TNA Wrestling		Big News
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate! Japan	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World
AXN		House (Season II)		Worst Case Scenario		The Ult. Fighter (Season II)		Beastmaster (Season I)	
bTV		TV Shopping		Vintage NBA James Worthy		NBA Greatest Game			
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel/ My Gym Partner's A Monkey	Robotboy/ Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends
Cinema One		Drakula Goes To RP				Vampira			
Cinemax			The Guns Of Navarone (3:25 PM)					Vegas Vacation	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport
Crime/Suspense		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Body Of Evidence
Discovery Channel		Tribe		Rides		MLE: The Great Flood		Zero Hour	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Emperor's New School	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series
ESPN		Watersports Programming Hot Water		X Games 11 Classic - Slammed Stomped	Motorsport Asia	Pro Billiards '06		NFL Football: Patriots @ Vikings	
ETC	Insider Weekend	Project Runway		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil	
EWTN	Super Saints	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Mirror Of The Soul	Lord, Have Mercy	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends	
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras	
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F. B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters	
HBO			McHale's Navy (3:45 PM)				Foul Play		
Hero TV	Tokyo Underground	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Gunlock	Full Metal Panic Fumoffu
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Serbis On The Go	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot	
JackTV		Experience		Heat		X-Men Evolution	Justice League	Bottomline	
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Food 911	Boy Meets Grill
MTV Philippines		Sessions Fasplash	VH1 Fabulous Life Kept Men		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Hits		
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	MYX Firsts	Star MYX
National Geographic		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Hidden Worlds		Predators At War		Top 5	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo News Beat (Live)	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Tamang Daan			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone/Nick's Fright Fest	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants/Eid Special: Dora The Explorer Fairy Tale Adventure/ Fop Fairy Idol	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron
PBO			Alabang Girls				Asti Ni Cecilia		
Qtv	Starry Night	Samurai X	Battle B-Daman	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Winter Sonata
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Alayon News		Complete Savages	Jake In Progress
SBN 21								Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports								AF3	
Star Movies	A Very Cool Christmas			Soul Plane (4:15 PM)			Sleeping With The Enemy		
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		The Apprentice		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle
Studio 23		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy

Channel	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Ult. Guinness World Records		Todo Max		Philippine Idol	Sentro	ALI		Arya-Arya Prem-yo Sa Resibo	Letty La Mas Fea
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Idol (8:15 PM)		Maging Sino Ka Man	Pinoy Dream Academy	Crazy For You	Bandila	Correspondents	Mirada De Mujer
AXN	Worlds Apart		Ripley's Believe It or Not		30 Seconds To Fame	AXN Extreme Macau	Las Vegas (Season 2)		Numb3rs (Season 2)	
bTV	NBA Jam	NBA Action	Vintage NBA Bill Russell		NBA Access	NBA Europe Live 2006 Finals				B-Ballography B. Russell
Cartoon Network	Mirumo De Pon	Pokemon, The Johto Journey	The Justirisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One	Shake, Rattle & Roll 2k5				D' Anothers				Feng Shui	
Cinemax		The Making Of Battlestar Galactica 2	Battlestar Galactica Mission 10			Battlestar Galactica Mission 11 (9:25 PM)			Arlington Road (10:55 PM)	
CNN	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		The Closer		E-Ring		Oz	
Discovery Channel	Tracking Deadly Vipers		Hour Asia		Chinese Whispers		Discovery Atlas			
Disney Channel	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Wicked Science S2/ Totally Spies	Phil Of The Future	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies/ Proud Family Movie	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN					Sportscenter Asia	World Pool League '05 Poland		World Pool League '05 Poland		Sportscenter Asia
ETC	The Tyra Banks Show		One Tree Hill 3		The OC Season 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue	NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Skating With Celebrities		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Journey Home Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Good Code The Natural Law	Cenacle Of Divine Mercy	Octavia Dies	Web Of Faith	
Fox News					Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Atlantika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	A Rosy Life	Bahay Mo Ba 'To			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Strong Medicine		Doc Martin		Judging Amy		The Canterville Ghost			
HBO		Funky Monkey			The Manchurian Candidate				Six Feet Under S5: Eat A Peach	
Hero TV	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Cinderella Boy	Tokyo Underground	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics Ams		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics Ams	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Mad TV		Just For Laughs	Jamie Kennedy Experiment	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Intimate Portrait		E! News Weekend		Martha		Whose Line Is It Anyway?		Napa Style	Sheila Bridges Designer Living
MTV Philippines	Get Spotted	5 Things About Fashion	TRL		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Arena	Sessions Fasplash	VH1 Fabulous Life	VH1 Fabulous Life
MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYXellaneous	Radio MYX	MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic	Nat'l Geographic Specials		Wow!		Martial Arts Week		Hollywood Science		Hunter Hunted	
NBN	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talakayan Sa Isyung Pulis		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Pagbubuyag		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh/Eid Special: Fop Fairy Idol/Nick's Fright Fest	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO		Pangako Sa 'Yo (Movie)				Gabriela				Psycho Sex Killer
Qtv	Irene	Emperor Of The Sea	Takeshi's Castle	Extreme Make-over Home Edition		News On Q	Sana'y Muling Makapiling		Irene	Acts
RPN 9	Project Runway		Australia's Next Top Model		Good Girls Don't	Sex & the City	Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
SBN 21			Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports	Superfights				ITZ		Sportsdesk		Raceworld	
Star Movies		Freaky Friday (7:20 PM)			Scream Awards 2006			Saw (10:35PM)		
Star World	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	One Tree Hill		Desperate Housewives		Kevin Hill		Kevin Hill	
Studio 23	Wazzup Wazzup	Gilmore Girls	Smallville (8:15 PM)		24		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		MYXlog

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Job prospects for young Filipinos not bright

By Jerome Aning

YOUNG FILIPINOS ARE THREE TIMES less likely to find jobs compared to adults, according to the International Labor Organization.

The Philippine picture reflects the global trend. The world's unemployed youths are rising, but 300 million youths who are employed live in poverty.

The number of the world's unemployed people aged 15 to 24 rose from 74 million to 84 million, or by 14.8 percent, between the period 1995 and 2005, said a report from the ILO central office in Geneva, Switzerland. On the other hand, more than 300 million youths, or approximately 25 percent of the young population, were living below the United States' $2-per-day poverty line.

According to the ILO report, a young person "whose first experience in the labor market was one of long-term unemployment" or who did not work right away, was likely to move "between unemployment spells and low-wage employment" throughout working life.

Between 2000 and 2004, nearly a quarter of the Philippine labor force was made up of youths aged 15-24, said the Manila-based ILO Subregional Office for Southeast Asian and the Pacific, using government figures.

There were 7.89 million young Filipino workers, comprising 23 percent of the total labor force. Of this number, 6.14 million had jobs while the rest of the 1.9 million without jobs accounted for 44.5 percent of the total unemployed in the country.

In terms of gender distribution, female youths in the country were four times more likely to become unemployed than adult females. Young males, on the other hand, were 2.7 times less likely to become unemployed compared to male adults.

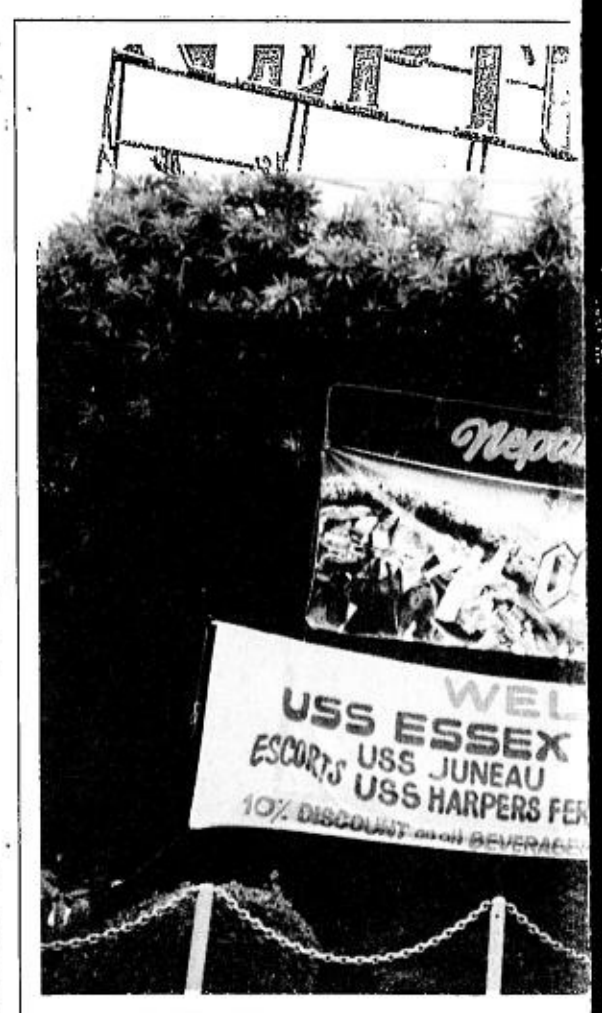
By region, Metro Manila and the Southern Tagalog area posted the highest number of unemployed youths and unemployment rates.

In terms of educational attainment, most of the unemployed youths were college undergraduates (32.4 percent), followed by high school undergraduates (18.2 percent), college graduates (15.4 percent) and those who did not finish elementary school (14.7 percent).

ILO estimated that at least 400 million decent and productive employment opportunities—simply put, new and better jobs—would be needed in order to reach the full productive potential of today's youth.

"Despite increased economic growth, the inability of economies to create enough decent and productive jobs is hitting the world's young especially hard," said ILO director general Juan Somavia.

The ILO said youth unemployment in the Philippines could be traced to deteriorating quality of education, jobs-skills mismatch and hiring practice discrimination.



RETURNING TO THE SCENE
GIs are still welcome at Subic. The Neptune Club v her in a Starex van a year ago today.

Gov't edict on $400-wage for maids called 'unrealistic'

By Jerome Aning

"UNREALISTIC AND CONTRARY TO the government's job-generation agenda" was how the umbrella organization of the country's top recruiters' associations described yesterday the government's decision to increase the monthly minimum wage for Filipino domestics from $200 to $400.

In their first formal declaration against the state-imposed salary, the Federated Association of Manpower Agencies (Fama) said it would do all it could to oppose the policy which the Department of Labor and Employment and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration planned to implement beginning Nov. 16.

"The Philippines, being a labor-supplying country cannot demand what it wants from foreign employers," Fama president Eduarto Mahiya said. "That is a function of a free market, dictated by supply and demand."

Mahiya said that because the government did not first secure bilateral agreements with the countries hosting Filipino domestics, the ill effects of the ban would fall mostly on licensed recruitment agencies which the POEA could sanction for contract violations once they begin deploying domestic workers at salaries lower than $400 a month.

"This is grossly unfair to us," he said.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion last week announced that apart from doubling the salaries of Filipino domestic helpers, the POEA would also prohibit recruitment agencies from collecting placement fees from them.

The new policy, POEA administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz had said, was part of a package of policy reforms that would "professionalize and empower" the hundreds of thousands of Filipino domestic helpers leaving each year to work overseas.

The "SuperMaid" program includes requiring domestic helpers to undergo skills assessment and upgrading as well as culture, language and emergency management training with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Mahiya said recruitment agencies do agree that domestic workers should be trained and paid more, but they oppose the 100-percent salary hike because of its possible deleterious effects on deployment.

Militants sue GMA

By Norman Bordadora

FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF POLITICAL killings and involuntary disappearances and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan has filed charges of human rights abuse and violation of economic and social rights against President Macapagal-Arroyo before the Permanent People's Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

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1.8M high scho to be given care

By Alcuin Papa

SOME 1.8 MILLION FOURTH YEAR high school students in public and private schools around the country will be given a National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE) on Dec. 12 to guide them in deciding their courses when they enter college, the Department of Education (DepEd) said yesterday.

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said the exam will address the so-called "job-skills mismatch," or the mismatch between the courses taken by college graduates with the requirements of national industries.

The exam, adapted from the defunct National College Entrance Examination (NCEE), will measure general scholastic ability. A new twist is the addition of two domains: Technical-vocational and entrepreneurial aptitude.

The NCAE will be a mandatory examination but for the moment, it will not be a requirement for admission to college. Lapuz said this could happen on the third year.

"Job-skills mismatch is major challenge right now. A large number of trained

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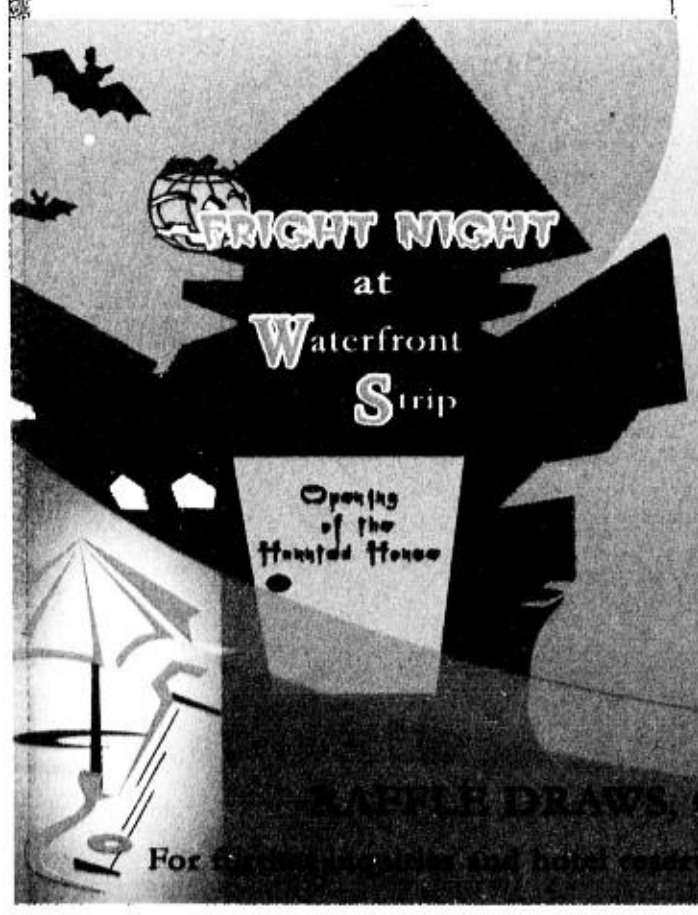
October 28 – November 5, 2006

Bumabagyo ng HALLOWEEEEEEEN gimik sa Subic



October 31, 2006

Halloween Costume Contest
(Children's Category)

6pm	Assembly at SUBAC
	Foot Parade to Boardwalk
7pm	Waterfront Strip
	Halloweeeeeen Party
	Magic Show
	Presentation of the Contestants
	Horror Category
	Fantasy Category
	Awarding
10pm	Live Band - TRAFFIC JAM

November 1, 2006

Halloween Costume Contest
(Adult Category)

6pm	Assembly at Subic Gym
	Foot Parade to Boardwalk
7pm	Waterfront Strip
	Halloweeeeeen Party
	Acrobat Show
	Presentation of the Contestants
	Horror Category
	Fantasy Category
	Awarding
11pm	Live Band - NEXXUS BAND

Speakeasy Establishment
Awarding (Boardwalk Stage), November 1, 2006, 7pm

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 31, 2006
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 5:21-33
Gospel: Luke 13:18-21

Jesus continued speaking, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? Imagine a person who has taken a mustard seed and planted it in the garden. The seed has grown and become like a small tree, so that the birds of the air shelter in its branches."

And Jesus said again, "What is the kingdom of God like? Imagine a woman who has taken yeast and hidden it in three measures of flour until it is all leavened."

Commentary

Bend in obedience. In marriage bend to one another, loving and faithful, making one another holy—love one another as Jesus has loved us. The mystery of marriage is that of equality and freedom with one another, as we are in the Trinity.

Jesus seeks to share the mystery of the kingdom of God—the relationship we are all given in God upon the earth, the same that Jesus has with the Father, in the Spirit's power. What was seeded in us in our baptisms is to grow and grow, thrive, spread like a weed, giving shelter and protection to the least. And the Word/Spirit is buried in us so that we might be bread and leaven for the world, offering something unbelievably fresh and true.

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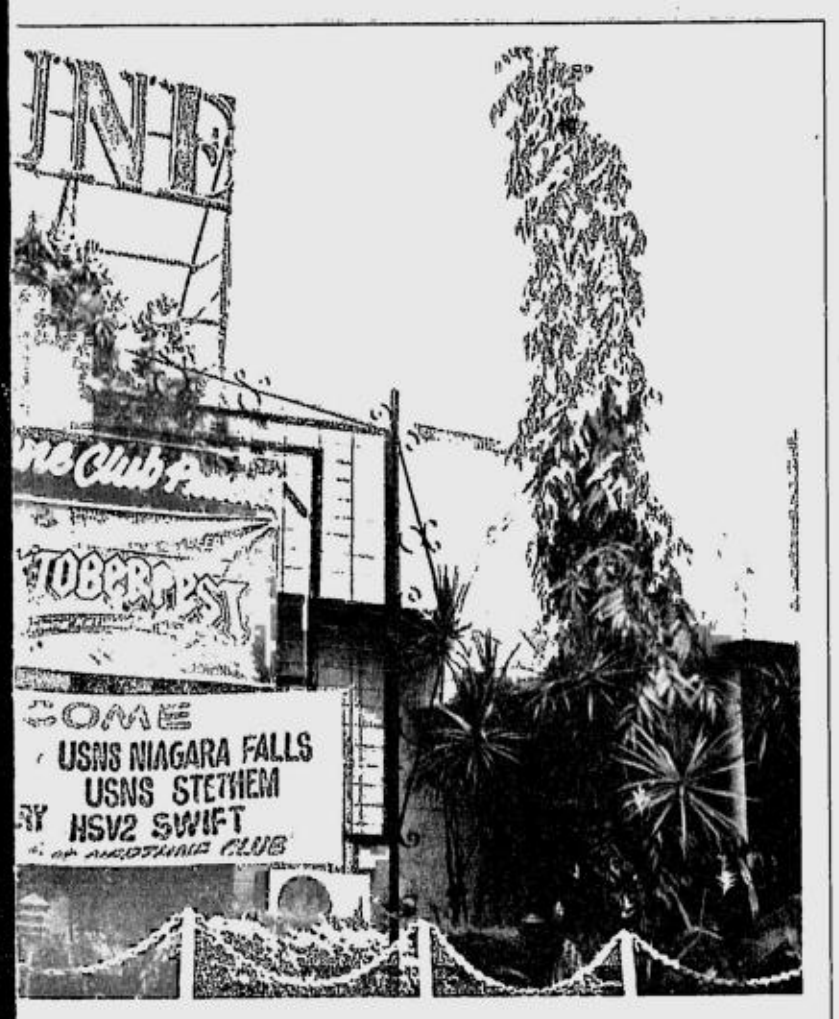

as where "Nicole" met Smith and three other GIs who allegedly raped

TONETTE T. OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

TROUBLE IN KAZAKHSTAN

RP oil firm workers fear for safety

By Nikko Dizon

MOST OF THE FILIPINO workers employed in an oil company in Tengiz, Kazakhstan, refuse to go back to work until their safety is assured amid a labor dispute involving other foreign workers, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

"Yes, many of them would rather not report for work yet," Ed Malaya, acting DFA spokesperson told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Still, majority of the estimated 600 overseas Filipino workers employed by an oil company in Tengiz want to remain in Kazakhstan.

The DFA received information from the Filipinos' local recruitment agency, Skills International Development, that around 60 percent of the OFWs in Tengiz wish to remain there.

The rest has "expressed the desire to return home but were willing to stay provided they were given hazard pay," the DFA said in a statement, quoting agency president, Levi de Mesa.

Filipino officials, led by Consul General Agnes Cervantes and Labor Attache Reste de la Fuente, are now in Tengiz to assist the Filipino oil workers and to discuss the situation with them and their employers.

The oil company is preparing a comprehensive security plan for the Filipinos, which will be discussed with the OFWs and the Philippine Consular Mission headed by Ambassador Jaime Yambao.

DFA Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr. said that the security plan would include a round-the-clock security for the OFWs, police visibility in their work site, a signal system and the rationalization of the entrance and exit areas for the workers.

Filipino engineers and supervisors had reported for work last Oct. 25 while other OFWs remained in their barracks until a security plan was implemented.

The Filipino workers had been living in quarters separate from the other foreign workers.

"Management is considering implementing staggered meal hours for the different nationalities to avoid provocation between groups," the DFA said.

A riot between Kazakh and Turkish workers broke out last week stemming from a labor dispute. No OFW was reported involved or injured in the incident.

for rights violations in int'l court

'cond session on the convened in The yesterday, some 26 first session on the d then strongman rcos and the US re- the suffering of the people in southern

emnation from inter- ps and leaders of oyo] has continued to implement a national policy of annihilation against legal progressive organizations," said Bayan chairperson Carol Araullo.

"The Melo Commission and Task Force Usig did not seek to render justice to the victims of human rights abuses. Instead, these so-called investigative bodies, by their sheer inefficiency and callous intentions, have reinforced the culture of impunity," she added.

The complainants aside from Bayan were the organizations of victims' families Hustisya, Desaparecidos and Selda and the human rights group Karapartan.

The PPT convened its second session at 10 a.m. Monday in the Hague (5 p.m. in Manila). PPT secretary general Gianni Tognoni was scheduled to preside over the tribunal's opening session.

ol studes er exams

are left unemployed or under- because they do not fit the re- s of the job market. It is quite t a number of job vacancies be filled up because the avail- power supply would not fit the Lapus.

t manpower summit discovered b market needs more graduates nical and vocational skills.

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said the DepEd is supporting vocational education as a possi- r option for graduating high udents since it "can empower find meaningful employment r not they get college diplo-

Court asked to cite Brion for contempt

By Leila B. Salaverria

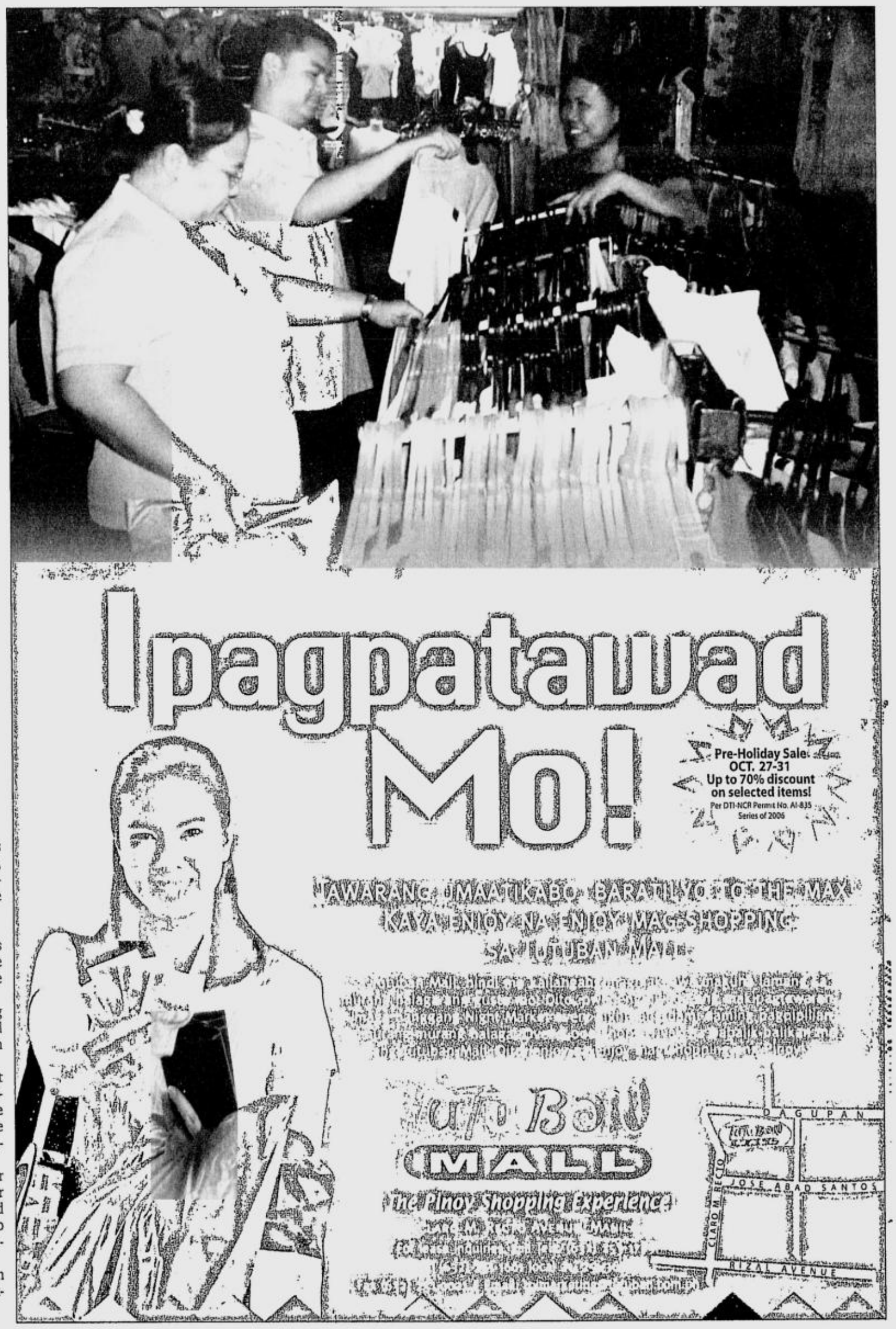
PASSERS OF THE JUNE 2006 NURSING licensure examination have asked the Court of Appeals to cite Labor Secretary Arturo Brion for contempt because he stopped the nurses' oath-taking despite the court's ruling to allow it.

In a petition filed by their lawyer Rene Saguisag, the passers said Brion, a former CA Justice, disrespected the law when on Oct. 16, he stopped the Professional Regulation Commission from enforcing the CA ruling.

The petitioners were led by Renato Aquino Jr. of the Alliance of New Nurses, which had been against ordering a retake of the nursing board exam following the disclosure that its questions had been leaked.

"It is respectfully prayed that Sec. Arturo Brion be asked to show cause why he should not be cited for contempt for toying with this Honorable Court and mocking the majesty of the law," the petition said.

Brion directed the PRC to refrain from administering the oath to the nursing board passers on Oct. 16 despite a CA ruling allowing it, saying the dissenting parties could file a motion for reconsideration.



stradas not worried bout return to RP of tong Ang, says Jinggoy

l Burgonio

CAMP OF DEPOSED PRESIDENT h Estrada is not at all worried the return of Charlie "Atong" Ang e country and the possibility he d testify in the plunder trial of the r Chief Executive.

e're not bothered at all if Atong comes home," said Estrada's son, Jinggoy Estrada, in a phone- ed interview with local reporters the United States.

e young Estrada doubted —his and his father's coaccused in lunder case they are facing in the iganbayan—would testify against despite what he claimed were vig- efforts by First Gentleman Jose el Arroyo and Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis vit" Singson to coax him to take itness stand.

ly information is that he will not against us," Estrada said.

en if he did, Estrada said, he be- d Ang's testimony would not be ging to them.

he speaks only the truth, then we nothing to fear," he said.

The First Gentleman and Singson, as well as Department of Justice officials, had been traveling to Las Vegas to convince Ang to testify against the Estradas, the senator said.

"That's on record," he said.

He admitted, however, that he was not aware if Ang had agreed to take the witness stand. "I don't know if there was any agreement," he said.

Estrada said he last spoke with Ang more than a year ago and that he did not try to convince him to testify on their behalf.

The US Department of State had sent a note to the Department of Foreign Affairs indicating Ang's transfer to the Philippines should be completed before Nov. 11, otherwise his petition for release may be granted.

Ang fled to the US after the elder Estrada was toppled in a people power revolt in January 2001. He was accused of delivering kickbacks from tobacco excise taxes meant for Ilocos Sur farmers to Estrada.

He was arrested in Las Vegas in November 2001 and is undergoing extradition proceedings.

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OPINION

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Water, water

EDITORIAL

THE COMING OF THE SUPERTYPHOONS "MILENYO" and "Paeng," which cut a swath of death and destruction across Luzon in the past four weeks, makes one think of a line from Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner": "Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink." Typhoons bring a lot of rainwater but the country does not seem to benefit from them. Probably the situation in the future will not be so bad as that described in Coleridge's poem, but it will be close to it: water will become such a scarce commodity that rationing may have to be resorted to.

In fact, water rationing has already started. The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System has said it is reducing the water supply for households and businesses in Metro Manila starting tomorrow. The reduction was announced by the MWSS as the water level in Angat Dam, which supplies more than 70 percent of the water in Metro Manila and irrigation for Central Luzon, dropped to its lowest level due to El Niño.

Ostensibly, the country has a lot of water supply; it has a total water reserve of 226 billion cubic meters per year against a total water demand of 30 billion cubic meters per year. But demand is expected to increase to 85 billion cubic meters by 2025. Right now, the distribution of water is uneven, with many areas suffering from shortages.

The water shortage could affect food production because agriculture is heavily dependent on water. The International Water Management Institute in 1998 said that water would be the single most important constraint to increased food production. And indeed, the lack of irrigation facilities and water in many areas of the country is preventing it from producing more rice, for one thing.

It is a paradox that the Philippines, which is surrounded by water, which has many lakes, rivers and brooks and which gets a lot of rainfall every year, should have a water problem. Former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun said several years ago that on a macro level, it appeared that the country had plenty of water but some areas were suffering from lack of water.

Environment writer Henrylito D. Tacio reported last year that in 1991, the Japan International Cooperation Agency listed nine major cities as "water-critical areas": Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao, Baguio, Angeles, Bacolod, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga. Recently the Philippine Human Development Report confirmed the JICA study.

Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III, executive director of the Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development, said that despite an average annual rainfall of 2.36 meters, the distribution of rain is not even throughout the country. Southern Tagalog has the most freshwater available, while Western Visayas has the least.

Much of the country's water resource is threatened by misuse, pollution and weather aberrations such as El Niño. And with the constant increase in population, there will be a greater demand for water.

What has to be done to meet the water shortage in certain areas of the country? First, rationing will have to be enforced, as it is already being enforced in Metro Manila.

Second, a water conservation campaign has to be waged. For instance, laundry and bath water can be saved and used to clean sidewalks and flush toilets. "Take a bath with a friend" has sometimes been said in jest, but some day it may become a necessary conservation measure.

Third, much of the rainwater brought by typhoons and the monsoons goes to waste. If more dams and impoundment facilities could be constructed, a lot of water could be saved and stored for use during the dry months.

Fourth, water wastage and misuse will have to be penalized either with fines or taxes. For instance, there is no reason why the rich should use tens of cubic meters of water just to wash a car or two when the poor cannot have access to even two or three cubic meters for their daily needs.

Fifth, a national program has to be drawn up on the proper use and conservation of water, the tapping of new water sources and the prevention of the pollution of water sources such as lakes and rivers that can be tapped for household water.

Water, next to air, is most essential to human life. The government and the private sector will have to get together and act now before the water problem gets out of hand and reaches crisis proportions.

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Blank.checks

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THERE IS A PATHOLOGY OF DECEPTION. And its most virulent form affects even constitutions.

Ferdinand Marcos' "Citizen Assemblies" uncorked this contagion with their farcical "ratification" of the dictatorship's constitution. It infected the martial law Supreme Court, searing a sorry indelible image: the Chief Justice trotting behind Imelda Marcos, as parasol bearer.

Like malaria or TB, this disease mutates. In the mid-1990s, its more vicious form was House Resolution No. 40. With their terms ending, panicky members of Congress scrambled to anoint themselves into a constituent assembly, so they could tailor the Constitution closer to their hearts' desires.

Then, like now, noble reasons were offered. President Fidel V. Ramos claimed the 1987 charter needed 147 amendments—revision really. It would "pole-vault us into the 21st century," he gushed. No one could recall what the 146 corrections were. But all were dead certain about the 147th. It'd scrap the cap on the officials' terms of office. "Oh, what a goodly outside falsehood hath," Antonio wails in "The Merchant of Venice."

The Supreme Court last week skewered a mutated pathology of deceit in its decision junking the "people's initiative" launched by Sigaw Ng Bayan (a.k.a. the Arroyo administration).

With the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, Sigaw claimed that 6.3 million signed up for "reforms." These ranged from breaking centralized governance gridlock, revising stifling economic provisions to a shift to a parliamentary system.

But "you can fool too many of the people too much of the time," humorist James Thurber writes in "Fables For Our Times." And that's what Sigaw and company tried to pull off, the Court said.

For a "people's initiative" to be valid, citizens must draft proposals to amend specific sections of the Constitution, the hard-nosed Sen. Joker Arroyo lucidly argued before the Court. And the proposals must be contained in a petition. Only then does signing follow.

The Department of Interior and Local Government and Sigaw, however, stood that criterion on its head. All they cranked out were signature forms. All they had was an incomplete draft of a new charter. They didn't even bother to draw up the requisite petition.

In July, a Social Weather Stations survey already found that 6 out of every 10 signatories were not shown the draft charter. This blacked out the plan to lift the cap on terms of office. What HR 40 failed to get would be sneaked in through the back door.

Skimpy Sigaw annexes didn't show that members of Congress would automatically become interim parliamentarians, skipping elections. This is the notorious "No-El" provision that a firestorm of protest earlier incinerated. Which goes to prove that not only cats have nine lives.

Also unexplained was the plan that unelected parliamentarians would decide when to call for a vote, if ever. In effect, they'd "determine the expiration of their own term of office," constitutional scholar Joaquin Bernas, SJ, points out.

That's a blank check, and only fools issue them.

Wait. There's a bid for a second blank check: 45 days after ratification, the Interim Parliament would convene. For what? "To propose further amendments or revisions to the Constitution." Such as allowing the President to appoint 30 parliamentarians? "A fool and his money are parted soon," the old proverb says.

Deceivers, however, need deodorizers. Judas did it with a kiss. Casca, Brutus, Cassius scrambled for "enforced ceremony" to justify knifing Ceasar—to save Rome, these "honorable men" insisted. Sigaw and company insist only their incomplete charter can save this country. As in the mid-1990s, idealism remains the noble toga that is draped over lust for power.

It's a "grand deception," the Supreme Court said in uncharacteristically harsh language. "There is not a single word, phrase or sentence of the (Sigaw) group's proposed changes in the signature sheet.... This omission is fatal."

Palace partisans haven't questioned the truth of the Court's observation on the duplicity. But they take umbrage at the blunt language. The Court may not call a spade a spade?

"Hijo, a grandes males, grandes remedios," my grandmother used to say. Son, great evils call for great remedies. In any case, the Master called hypocrites hypocrites.

"It ain't over until the fat lady rises and starts to sing," street jocks say. So, the administration will roll out Plans B to D. They have until Nov. 9 to ask the Court to rethink. Then, there's the bizarre scheme, now under way in the Lower House, to adopt charter changes all by its lonesome.

No need for an ornery Senate, outnumbered by the House to vote separately on constitutional changes, Speaker Jose de Venecia and his soulmates insist. So, how come changing the name of a town, hospital or street name requires a separate vote by the Senate and the House? No answer. Now, you know why Senator Arroyo had his black robe, needed for Supreme Court appearances, dry-cleaned and pressed.

Today's raw political ambitions make charter change chancy. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, among others, have said they'd prefer delegates elected to a constitutional convention to do the job.

The "Runyon Law," meanwhile, may kick in. New York journalist Damon Runyon wrote his "law" by dusting off Ecclesiastes: "The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." He then added: "But that's the way to bet."

Not with blank checks.

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Horror movie

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I HAVEN'T seen a good horror movie in a long time. My generation was one that was exposed to Western, sci-fi, war and horror movies (I'm not entirely sure if it's in that order of chronology or importance). The war and sci-fi stuff was largely before my time, or I was still a small child then when they were the rage, but the Western and horror movies were not.

I recall spending many a sleepless night with the horror movies that came our way, but for some reason, not the least being the greater dread of being the only one in the neighborhood or class that hadn't see the movie, a sure sign of being a sissy, I trooped to them with morbid fascination. To this day, I recall the fear and trembling I felt while I lay under the mosquito net with only the flickering flame of a votive lamp at the altar of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and the distant baying of a dog to keep me company, everybody else snoring the night away in deep and peaceful sleep. What can I say? Young minds are truly impressionable—some young minds more than others.

When I got to high school and college, I watched the Hammer movies in particular with far less fear and trembling and with far more fun and relish. And no small amount of titillation, Hammer being among, if not the first, to inject strong sexuality, or sensuality, into horror. I would read later on that they were original in turning Christopher Lee's Dracula's vampire kiss into a true love bite—or for the politically correct, into sexual harassment, Dracula's invasion of his female victimtaking on the aspect of a defilement or violation. And the women were gorgeous, as seen through concupiscent eyes. What can I say again? Young bodies are assailed by raging hormones—some young bodies more than others.

But as I was saying, it's been a long time since I've seen a good horror movie. Quite probably, the last one I saw that brought a chill to my heart was "The Exorcist," though that was not a little spoiled by the hype that went into it, which for me gave the head-turning and levitation scenes in the exorcism part some comic overtones. But it was still enough to scare the bejesus out of anyone, no small thanks to William Friedkin's restrained tone in much of the movie.

The more recent ones I saw were "The Exorcism of Emily Rose," "Skeleton Key" and "Saw." The first sucked for the most part: it was a ripoff of the original "Exorcist" without any self-mocking tone to redeem it. "Skeleton Key" was OK, if only for the presence of one of my favorite actors, who can't seem to land roles that do justice to his massive talent, John Hurt. He doesn't say or do anything here—he's completely paralyzed—he speaks only with his eyes. I don't know that "Saw" qualifies as a horror movie. I liked its premise, but not enough to go on to watch the second and third. I started "Hostel" and "Silent Hill," but never got past the first half. It had little to do with being sick in the stomach with all that blood and gore, though I know some people who got assailed by that. I got bored. I find that most slasher movies just add new dimensions to the "mindless" in "mindless violence."

I don't know why I haven't really seen a good horror movie in a long time. Maybe it's because they truly don't make great horror movies anymore. Maybe the movies grew up and went to other things, though I don't know that other has always meant better or more mature. Certainly, there's not much to be said for gross comedies and teenage movies.

Or maybe the world got a bit more secular, and the producers decided there wasn't a lot of money to be made off movies that demanded a reasonable belief in God and the devil to be able to buy their proxy wars in the human soul. Or still maybe the world got a little more politically correct or religiously plural the producers decided that some audiences might be offended or sent to fits of hilarity by the sight of creatures of the night crumbling to dust at the sight of the crucifix. Why not the Jewish cross or the Koran? George Hamilton actually cracked a joke about that in "Love at First Bite" while playing the role of Dracula who had immigrated to America after his castle in Transylvania had been expropriated by the socialist government to be turned into a training gym for Nadia Comaneci. Shown the Star of David by a potential victim, he laughed and said, "Wrong religion."

Or maybe I have grown a lot older and look at the world with wearier eyes. Maybe I've found that it's not always easy to tingle with horror at the spectacle of monstrous creatures from other or nether worlds invading the peace of the just when there are far more monstrous creatures in this world producing horrors that boggle the mind and promise only the peace of the dead. I do know it hasn't been easy enjoying a horror movie over the last six years in this country in light of a far more terrifying spectacle that has been reeling off right before our eyes. How can the fleeting vampires and other creatures of the night compete with the solid and ubiquitous creatures of the day that suck the blood off our necks far more ferociously and murder us without pity? At least Dracula has class, Pidal has only crass.

• Indeed, I don't know how anyone can be so terrified at watching movies about zombies. Zombies after all are creatures that do not quite yet know they are dead, who look at the world with unseeing eyes, who stumble about feeling neither joy nor pain, not knowing where they came from or where they are going. You don't have to go to the movies to see that, you just have to look around you. That is what we've become, a nation of zombies.

That is the most horrifying horror movie of all.

For more brave hearts and justices of vision

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE MORE THE FIRM'S TOP HONCHO, ARTHUR Villaraza, talks about the controversial *ponencia* of his former colleague, Justice Antonio Carpio, the deeper the controversy becomes. Villaraza, in his interview in the INQUIRER over the weekend, sought to distance his law firm from the Carpio decision, saying they had nothing to do with it. But everyone knows that the firm, being such a formidable political power wielder, has always sought to place its people in powerful positions in government, so it must always keep close tabs on events of grave political impact. Thus, it's unthinkable that it wouldn't have known that Carpio's ponencia would have an exceptionally vengeful tone.

* * *

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor was quoted as saying President Macapagal-Arroyo couldn't understand why those supposed to be closest to her in the Court were so harsh in condemning the people's initiative. Such sentiments are understandable. For while she realizes that the high magistrates need and value their independence, the scathing tenor of Carpio's opinion caught her by surprise. And who wouldn't be? Even the larcenous group that plundered the coconut farmers' levy funds three decades ago was never condemned that way by the Court in its landmark 1992 decision declaring the levy funds to be "imbued with public interest."

* * *

Speaker Jose de Venecia pointed out at the Manila Overseas Press Club that groups like the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines and various chambers of commerce, including the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, as well as religious groups such as some Protestant groups, had joined the signature campaign. "Were they all engaged in a 'grand deception'?" he repeatedly asked. He opined that the broad masses of those who solicited those signatures as well as those who signed it were sincere and honest in their belief that parliamentary change would free us from the flawed presidential/bicameral system that has put us next only to Bangladesh in Asia, with even the once war-torn Vietnam passing us in terms of GDP growth.

* * *

Last Saturday, I opined that the SC's majority decision belabored the need for signatories of people's initiative to read the complete text of the draft constitution before signing up. I found this quite anachronistic in the light of today's many communication options. There was the extensive use by Charter change advocates of radio, which remains still the most powerful means of communicating to the provinces, the TV and innumerable barangay assemblies. In the urban areas one of the most effective means was the Internet, where Sigaw had set up and operated a number of websites that were visited by tens of thousands of users.

* * *

Perhaps it is time for the Court to look into the practicality of this requirement under RA 6735. Even assuming that millions of copies of the draft constitution had been provided, I wonder how many citizens would have read it? Recall that the present Constitution was approved by over 78 percent of the people, but I dare say that the great majority of them did so without reading it prior to the February 1987 plebiscite. To push the point further, how many legislators have read the Constitution in toto?

* * *

One hears the argument that the recent initiative was not really the people's undertaking, since their political leaders dragged them into signing it. But haven't we always been led by our leaders in any given endeavor? "*Kung saan kayo, diyan kami,*" is a common saying of the rank and file. This must have been true of the 10 million registered voters who signed the initiative petition of Lambino et al., 6.3 million of which were verified. But this doesn't invalidate their signatures.

* * *

There's also the accusation by critics of that groups such as the pro-initiative advocates are so presumptuous as to think they could speak for all 84 million Filipinos in changing the Charter. How dare Lambino et al. presume to speak for the Filipino people? Star's Carmen Pedrosa, who among the journalists has perhaps studied the parliamentary issue most thoroughly over the years, correctly pointed out that the Lambino et al. are not amending the Constitution, they merely seek to toss the final decision to the sovereign people, who will vote to approve or reject it in a plebiscite.

* * *

This is what I mean by my call for more brave hearts in the high court, who will rise above the constricting technicalities of PD 6735 and see Charter change as a powerful liberating force for the country. Those of us who are pushing for Cha-cha are looking for visionaries in the Court who will look at people's initiative for what it truly is: the fountainhead of the people's sovereign power to chart their own destiny. It is a beautiful and innovative experiment enshrined in the 1987 Constitution and like most experiments, initiative is far from perfect. But it can be a potent force for reforming a badly damaged political system such as what we have, if only it's treated rightly.

* * *

Senior Justice Reynato Puno, who led the group of seven brave hearts in the Court against popular opinion, saw it very clearly in his dissenting opinion: "The first principle enthroned by blood in our Constitution is the sovereignty of the people. We ought to be concerned with this first principle, i.e., the inherent right of the sovereign people to decide whether to amend the Constitution. Stripped of its abstractions, democracy is all about who has the sovereign right to make decisions for the people, and our Constitution clearly and categorically says it is no other than the people themselves from whom all government authority emanates."

More on Puno next time.

Long live the indies

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PEOPLE WHO WERE VIRTUALLY PRESIDING OVER the funeral of the Filipino film industry a few years back didn't reckon with the sudden, unexpected blossoming of "indies" or independent movies.

So-called because they are largely produced by filmmakers with no or minimal support from commercial studios or big-time producers, "independent" films have been making the rounds since about a decade ago, but it is only lately that the "indie" circuit has exploded in both content and audience. Where once such filmmakers like Lav Diaz and Raymund Red exhibited their works on campuses and in art film festivals, today innovative, non-commercial and even edgy movies get to be shown even in mall theaters and on TV. This doesn't mean, though, that "indies" get to make the same amount of box-office bonanza that commercial filmmaking does. But they are reaching a much larger audience and, more important, creating a loyal following.

I would date the transformation of the independent film movement to the first Cinemalaya festival, a competition offering seed money to filmmakers to convert their synopsis and scripts into both short films and feature-length movies using the much cheaper and accessible digital format. The coming-of-age of independent movies was itself heralded by a coming-of-age film, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" that won a jury prize in Cinemalaya and went on to win both critical acclaim here and abroad, and commercial success during its two commercial runs.

I remember reading an interview with young Filipino indie filmmakers where they declared that while the commercial film industry is "dying" in this country, independent movies were alive and well and robust enough to belie reports of the industry's premature death. I couldn't agree with them more.

* * *

THE LATEST news on the "indie" front is the launching of the 8th Cinemanila International Film Festival from Nov. 3 to 15 at SM Cinemas, Ayala Greenbelt Cinemas and the NCCA Auditorium.

Though 75 full-length films from 35 countries will be presented in the festival, local "indies" will have their chance to shine in the "Digital Lokal" competition, with no less than an official of the Cannes Film Festival flying in to sit as a juror.

On the competition level, the Philippines has submitted Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador" and Lav Diaz's "Heremias," which will also be the festival's closing film.

Cinemanila organizer Tikoy Aguiluz also happily reported that the Philippine government, through the Film Development Council, the National Commission on Culture and the Arts and other agencies, are supporting the festival with funding and logistical support. Though I don't know, it's generally bad news when government enters the picture!

* * *

STILL on the "indie" scene, another independent movie "Kaleldo," opens tomorrow in commercial theaters. "Kaleldo," the Kapampangan word for "summer" (its English title is "Summer Heat") is the work of director Brillante Mendoza, whose previous film "Masahista" has won accolades in foreign film fests.

"Kaleldo" itself has taken part in four film festivals abroad—in Rome, Vienna, Hawaii and Cairo—following the path of other indies like "Kubrador" and "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" that first hit the foreign film festival circuit, generating maximum publicity and critical acclaim to generate positive "buzz" before venturing into the uncertain waters of the local market.

It's really unfortunate that Pinoy filmmakers feel compelled to first show their works to foreign audiences to create the momentum needed to impel a movie to commercial success here. Are we so immature an audience that we need favorable ratings from foreigners first before we take an interest in a local film?

The irony is that "Kaleldo" doesn't need that much critical buzz to appeal to local movie goers. It is the story of a domineering patriarch (Johnny Delgado) and his relationships with his three daughters, portrayed by Angel Aquino, Juliana Palermo and Cherry Pie Picache, who is actually the most "filial" of the three, staying home to look after her father and helping support him. But it is Cherry Pie's character who also bears the brunt of her father's criticism, anger and even violence. And the reason is that she has failed to meet his expectations, being a "tomboy" and thereby an embarrassment.

The film is rich in themes that resonate with Filipinos—the tug-of-war between filial loyalty and individual aspirations, sibling rivalry, the shifting role of women in the family, and the social pressures brought to bear on people who stray from the norm.

* * *

I FIND it interesting, though, that the brunt of the film's publicity has centered on the steamy lesbian love scene between Picache and Criselda Volks. I must say that Picache's approach to her lesbian character—though quite "butch" in appearance and behavior—is refreshing, refusing to be confined to the physical aspects of the character and indeed transcending this image and even imbuing her character with maternal tenderness and nurturing.

Mendoza actually sent me a DVD copy of "Kaleldo" some months ago. The DVD came in an envelope together with a notification which I was asked to sign, including so many conditions I was half-afraid to append my signature on it, for fear that I might unwittingly commit some serious misdemeanor just by watching the movie.

Then again, I guess that's how gravely filmmakers, especially independent filmmakers, view piracy these days. Given the slim margins in which they operate, I guess having their films making the rounds for free before they can even test the market would spell disaster for their efforts. So support our film industry and take the time to buy a ticket and watch "Kaleldo."

The nine lives of Daniel Ortega

WORLD VIEW

Carlos F. Chamorro

ONCE AGAIN, NICARAGUA FACES A POSSIBLE Sandinista restoration. The country votes on Nov. 5 in an unprecedented presidential election with four competitive candidates, and the question on everyone's lips is whether Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega, who lost by more than 10 percent in each of the last three presidential votes, will succeed in regaining power this time.

Nicaragua's politics are polarized between a Sandinista minority and a majority that is clearly anti-Sandinista, yet Ortega has a real chance of winning.

How is this so? Despite conspicuous efforts by the Bush administration to unify Nicaragua's right, the anti-Sandinista forces are divided. The traditional wing, the Constitutional Liberal Party (PLC), controlled by former President Arnoldo Alemán, who is under house arrest since being convicted of corruption, has José Rizo as its candidate. The moderate wing, the Nicaraguan Liberal Alliance (ALN), is led by banker Eduardo Montealegre, with huge support from the private sector and the Bush administration.

But the FSLN (the Sandinista National Liberation Front), too, has suffered a major rupture, with the emergence of a new option on the democratic left in the form of a breakaway Sandinista faction that has managed to win the support of independent voters. Its candidate, the economist Edmundo Jarquín, is a former expert on governance issues at the Inter-American Development Bank.

A backroom deal, reached between Alemán and Ortega in 2000 and intended to carve up power between the two men, established a 40 percent threshold for a candidate to win the presidency in the first round. In addition, and in exchange for personal benefits, then President Alemán promulgated a rule that looks tailored-made to suit Ortega: candidates can win on the first round with only 35 percent of votes if there is a 5 percent difference between the leading contender and the runner-up.

The emerging forces represented by Montealegre and Jarquín agree on the need for political reform to undo that Ortega-Alemán pact, which has politicized the judiciary, the national accounts and the electoral system.

Concerning economic policy, they differ on the degree of continuity or change that should be pursued, and over recent reforms that have produced moderate economic growth but with no improvement whatsoever in the living conditions of the 50 percent of the population who live in poverty.

Paradoxically, Ortega enters the final stages of the campaign with about 33 percent of the vote, far below his historical high of 42 percent. Yet he may just win due to the divided opposition.

In a parody of John Lennon's song "Give peace a chance," Ortega barnstorms the country in the manner of a religious preacher, offering "peace, jobs and reconciliation." He condemns wild capitalism, but proposes no systemic change as an alternative. The only new elements in his program are handouts from Venezuela's populist President Hugo Chávez, which will also mean political alignment between the two leaders if Ortega wins.

But polls that put Ortega in the lead should be read cautiously, because many voters keep their views hidden. With this warning in mind, three scenarios are possible:

* Ortega cannot win in the first round. As in previous elections, the hidden vote turns massively against him. He then is soundly defeated in a run-off against Montealegre as anti-Ortega voters unite against him. If that happens, Nicaragua would have a president with a strong popular mandate and the possibility of establishing a viable democratic alliance in Congress.

* Ortega wins outright in the first round, fueling economic uncertainty, as investors, savers and external donors are seriously worried by his past. How long they would worry, of course, depends on his behavior in office. Despite his revolutionary rhetoric, Ortega would have no chance of enacting substantial change, because he would lack a congressional majority. Even so, the country's stability, always precarious, would depend on his relations with the US, which have long been poisoned by mutual hostility. Moreover, his victory would mean a new and unconditional ally for Chávez, one with more symbolic than real influence, but economically dependent on Venezuela in a region dominated by the influence of the US and the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas.

* The electoral result is too close to define a non-controversial winner after the first round. It is feared that the Supreme Electoral Council, strongly dominated by the FSLN and the PLC, may not administer the vote counting impartially. And, even if massive fraud is not foreseeable, selective fraud remains a risk. This poses a huge challenge for international electoral observers—the Organization of American States, the European Union and the Carter Center—if they are to prevent a situation similar to, or even more serious than, Mexico's recent post-election impasse.

The only certain result that will come out this election is that a new Congress will emerge, and that it will weaken the Alemán-Ortega pact that has held current President Enrique Bolaños administration hostage. Thus, any new government will have more room for democratic maneuver in a fragmented Congress of four strong electoral blocs.

Nicaragua faces a hugely complex future. But that complexity is much more promising than the current immobility. *—Project Syndicate*

Carlos F. Chamorro, a Nicaraguan journalist, is director of the weekly magazine Confidencial and of the TV show "Esta Semana." He is a former director of the Sandinista newspaper Barricada.

Halloween party

YOUNG BLOOD

Jellyn Gueco

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

MY ROOMMATE IS ATTENDING A HALLOWEEN BASH AT one of Manila's posh clubs. It will be her first time to attend such an event, so we spent one sleepless night just brainstorming on a perfect costume that will go with the party's animé-cartoon-superhero theme. We wanted something easily recognizable, yet unique and witty—something classic but not passé. We wanted to come up with a concept that would make people look and marvel at how brilliant she was to come up with the costume.

I must say that we had a blast exchanging one ridiculous idea after another: Gumby, Flubber, Smurf, Keroppi, name it! After a couple of hours, we were able to list down a few easy choices: Sexy Hamburglar (just wear a trendy black and white striped navy top, a beret, shades and a black cape), Princess and the Pea (just bring a pea), Princess and the Frog (bring a stuffed frog), or Princess of Mario Brothers (bring a mushroom). By the end of the night, we were laughing so hard and we couldn't wait to find out what the others would be wearing aside from the predictable Spiderman or Cinderella outfits.

There was one instant though when I told my roommate, only half in jest, that if there was no theme and it was just the usual Halloween party where one could come as a scary character, she could wear a simple office uniform and go as a "ghost employee." That would have definitely made heads turn because it's something that's all over the newspapers and television and very current!

We were still laughing over that idea when I realized that hey, when you think about it, the world we live in is a one big Halloween costume party! Just like in a costume party, the best-dressed ones are always the ones who get the most attention. It really doesn't matter what they really are inside, the important thing is that their costumes look good and so they become the most photographed, most talked about people of the night. They hide beneath these masks and costumes and pretend to be someone they're not to get what they want, principally fame and fortune.

Those who do not have the money to dress up in elaborate costumes are left out. It seems that just being themselves is not enough. They have to put up a front, project a façade that will be accepted by the people around them. If they fail to go along with the party's theme, they are instantly shut out and ignored. Who cares if they have the potential to be the life of the party? For as long as they don't look like they belong, they never will be part of the group.

Those who organize the party are those who often dress up in the most ostentatious costumes. They do not care if they spend thousands to achieve the look they desire as long as they will turn out to be the most celebrated hosts of the party. Money is no issue when it comes to putting up the event. If possible, they'll slather the pumpkins with Swarovski just to be chic and trend-setting.

This happens everywhere, especially in the Philippines. The rich are always on top, the less fortunate always end up being deprived, and political leaders spend millions to make themselves look good. But in the Philippines there is one big difference: Lately, many of our political leaders don't even bother to hide behind masks to do something nasty. There are those who shamelessly manipulate people, not caring if they would look dictatorial and scheming outright. They literally scare their enemies by using self-proclaimed powers that do not really exist. And even when the party is over, they continue to do horrifying deeds that would surely raise Tutankhamen out of his mummified state if he knew about it.

I must say that if their intention is to scare people, they've succeeded—at least as far as I am concerned. Yes, I am scared—very scared. I know that these leaders will definitely continue to spread their darkness in this world and I'm scared because this just proves that there are indeed real life monsters, but I am not sure if there are also real life Super Inggos to save us from them.

Jellyn Gueco, 23, is a frustrated writer/artist/architect/fashion designer/beautician/ chef/bartender/singer who is currently working in a media company.

Afraid of the dark

Joyce Lou G. Penales

ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE DARK?

Well, I am. But it was only recently that I began to be afraid of it.

I used to be night person. I enjoyed walking in the cool night air. I could stay up till dawn watching concerts or plays, doing org rituals or lab work, reviewing for exams in the *tambayan*, fixing exhibits, eating, drinking or just chatting with friends or classmates. Night time was also the best time to be with someone you loved and who inspired you in every way and lying on the open field just watching the stars.

Silence. Darkness is usually accompanied by silence, and silence gives us dreams that are mostly chaotic. I often imagine myself getting caught by a vampire, who drinks my blood and takes my breath away, but also shares his immortality and powers. I want some powers that vampires have, but I can have them only in the dark.

Power. In the middle of the night, when everything is dark, don't you experience a sudden surge of power? You feel the power of the mind, you can fully concentrate and ideas overflow, especially when you don't need and least expect it. It's the best time to make plans for the next hours or days.

But have you ever cried in the dark and under the sheets? When you feel deeply hurt, the only way to express it is to cry in the night, shout against the darkness, and wish you were asleep and at peace, feeling the silence of the tomb.

These were the things I loved about the dark, but a few days ago, I began to hate it. I found myself alone and the silence was suffocating. I started breathing heavily as if there was less oxygen in my blood. Numbness crept over me until I could no longer feel my own flesh. Then I woke up and I began to cry.

The experience was truly terrifying. I thought I would never awaken. I was afraid of sudden death.

I am afraid of the dark because I am afraid to die. I fear seeing darkness forever. I fear the idea of not continuing to live. I still have things to do. I cannot die now.

Joyce Lou G. Penales, 25, is a BS Biology graduate of the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Senate on right track on JPEPA

LETTERS TO THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WE WELCOME THE MOVE OF THE Senate to study the implications of the Japanese-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) which was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi last Sept. 9 in Finland.

The above agreement, if approved as a treaty by the Senate, will make the Philippines the "trash can" of Japan's hazardous wastes, among them incinerator ash, residues which have mercury and arsenic, sewage sludge, and clinical wastes.

The agreement contravenes our own 1987 Constitution which guarantees the people's right to a balanced and healthful ecology. It likewise violates some laws, such as Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act) and Republic Act 6969 (which bans the entry of hazardous wastes).

The government is boasting that the JPEPA will be a big boost to our economy as our pineapples, bananas, tuna and other products will be able to gain a larger share of Japan's imports. It also says that our tourism, medical and other service-related industries will benefit. While partly true, it does not justify the Philippine government's surrendering of the Filipino people's right to a safe environment.

—RAFFY REY HIPOLITO, advocacy officer, EcoWaste Coalition, 320 Eagle Court Bldg., Matalino Street, Quezon City

NPO explains why request denied

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO CORRECT whatever wrong impression might have been created in the minds of INQUIRER readers by the news story titled "2 Mega Pacific owners bag new Comelec deal" regarding our request for a permit to enter into a contract with a supplier of carbonless paper. (PDI, 10/23/06)

To put the record straight, our request was prompted by nothing but the noblest intention—to protect the interest of the government, more specifically, to save its scarce resources, considering that, at that time, the value of the peso was at an all-time low because of the Middle East conflict.

Carbonless paper is imported. Therefore, its price is affected by sudden declines in the value of the peso. We believed then that the best thing to do to keep the prices of the paper low was to bind one supplier to the prevailing prices, which then "threatened" to go up at rates that would have been disadvantageous to the government. It was a blessing that the Lebanon conflict was resolved sooner than expected, rendering our request irrelevant, hence its denial by the Philippine Information Agency.

Sadly, however, instead of citing the grounds for our request as we clearly stated, the report put the NPO management in a bad light by recklessly implicating it, albeit without basis, in a Comelec bidding simply because the supplier concerned was owned by one of the incorporators of the Mega Pacific consortium.

Worse, not even a word was written about Earnest and Bestforms, two of three private printers that have been banned by the NPO and other government agencies for harassment, dirty tactics and violations of law. Any government agency with which these two printing companies transact business could very well attest to this fact.

Allow me to take this opportunity therefore to call on all fellow government officials and employees to hold our ground and stand rock-solid against scoundrels and scalawags who, when transacting business with government, have the nasty habit of dictating their own terms—as if they can con us all—and harassing, if not suing, everyone who refuses to kowtow to them.

My performance record at NPO speaks for itself. After cutting the price of paper by as much as 52 percent through open bidding, the NPO cut down the printing costs by 13 percent. The NPO has also stopped the issuance of waivers; this has resulted in winning back, after 20 years, blue-chip accounts like the BIR residence certificate and Customs and Philhealth. We have also transformed the rusty NPO presses into a busy hub, and we have broken sales records in the last three years. I need not dignify the brazen attempts to destroy me through a well-funded black propaganda campaign being spearheaded by the evil and rouge minds of desperate people with axes to grind.

—FELIPE P. EVARDONE, officer in charge, National Printing Office, philipevardone@yahoo.com

Will gov't do something about smelly dump?

HOW QUEER IT WAS TO SEE ON TV Casimiro Ynares Jr., general manager of Laguna Lake Development Authority, closing two restaurants in Quezon City for non-compliance with the LLDA's anti-pollution regulation on liquid discharge. Yet, for 20 years now, the Ynareses who alternately but uninterruptedly ruled Rizal as governors of the province, have never lifted a finger on the plea of the residents of Morong, Rizal, who have been asking the *Kapitolyo* to close the open dump adjacent to the national road at Sitio Taghangin, Barangay Maybancal (the dengue capital of late, remember?).

The dump, which has grown larger in area through the years, every day emits an obnoxious and toxic smoke, and simply smells like hell. Even the leachate seeps down to a lake that is two kilometers away. Ask the residents and commuters of nearby towns, and they will tell you "something is rotten in ... " that the LLDA, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and *Kapitolyo* can do nothing about. What compliance?

What health hazard?

Well, look at the bright side—come December, when the air gets dense, the place will again look like "foggy San Francisco." Just close your nose.

—CLARITO F. SORIANO, Rotary Club of Lakeshore Rizal, Morong, Rizal, cfsoriano@gmail.com

LRT passengers walk on the tracks after a power blackout.

Accidents waiting to happen at LRT?

PLEASE HELP ME CALL THE ATTENTION of the LRT management.

1. At 2:50 p.m. of Oct. 6, a northbound train of LRT had to make an emergency stop a few seconds after moving out of the Gil Puyat station. A concrete block was on the rails!

2. The block came from the service canal on the side of the tracks: I noticed that for sometime these blocks had not been replaced properly. Where do servicemen walk, on the tracks?

3. I have seen LRT supervisors, PNP officers, LRT guards and employees cross the tracks to get to the other side. There used to be signs prohibiting the practice. The signs have been replaced by a red danger sign. Maybe, they don't know what this means.

4. I have seen train operators using mobile phones to send SMS, exchange gossip and shout obscene remarks at co-employees.

5. LRT operators should be on the alert at all times and should not take maintenance practices for granted. The Germans were known for their attention to detail; but recently, a MAGLEV smashed into a service vehicle on its path.

We should bear in mind an accident that happened several years ago. A domestic flight to Cagayan de Oro made a sidetrip to a city in the Visayas to drop a mechanic. None of the pilots were checked for that flight pattern. The last recorded exchange of the two pilots was: "Sir, do you suppose there is no mountain range behind that cloud bank."

"Maybe not," was the reply. Bang! All aboard died.

—ADOLFO M. PINLAC, PO Box EA110, Ermita, Manila 1004

Anti-Muslim bias must be overcome

I READ WITH GREAT INTEREST THE news report about Islamic religious authorities declaring "terrorism 'haram' (unlawful) in Monday's simultaneous open congregational prayers to mark Eid'l Fitr in town centers of Muslim-dominated provinces and cities." (PDI, 10/24/06)

Information like this can help cure the widespread anti-Muslim bias which contributes to the incidence of violence and armed conflict in the country.

—JOSE MAYO, josemayo73@yahoo.com

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Pag-Ibig house turns out unsafe to live in

SOMETIME IN 1996, I PURCHASED from a developer a house and lot on a hilly portion of Rolling Meadows 1 Subdivision in San Bartolome, Novaliches, Quezon City.

I paid (through the Pag-Ibig) the monthly amortizations on the property until I noticed cracks appearing underneath the house walls, as well as in the adjoining room and the kitchen area along the perimeter wall. Thinking that the cracks were mere construction defects, I immediately had them repaired. But after a few weeks, new cracks appeared.

I consulted with my neighbors. I found out, mine was not an isolated case. Almost all the houses along the perimeter wall in the subdivision's Block 1 had similar defects—cracks on the floors, walls; and water seeping out of floors, etc. It was then that we discovered that the developer had placed a large drainage system along the entire perimeter wall. And sold the abutting lots without informing the buyers! The drainage pipes are underneath our row of houses, which are located atop a hill; but they are above the roofs of houses in the adjoining subdivision!

I immediately called and informed the developer about our discovery. But until now, it has refused to remedy the situation. We brought the matter to the attention of our homeowners' association, which filed a complaint with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board. The HLURB conducted an ocular inspection together with the city engineers office and developer. The complaint was filed in 1997, but the developer to this day has remained quiet on how it plans to solve the problem which poses a clear and present danger to families, including all those living below the perimeter wall.

Meanwhile, I am in the predicament of being evicted by Pag-Ibig for standing firm on my principle not to pay for something on which I was shortchanged. Pag-ibig maintains that it is merely a financier and not liable for the engineering quality of houses loaned under its housing program. If this is the case, how are we, Pag-Ibig members, to be protected from a very serious form of deceit that some developers play on their clients? I am an ordinary Filipino who has invested my lifetime savings in a house and lot for my family. Now we are on the verge of being evicted either by nature or a vague social system. If nature gets to us first, I'm sure there will be lots of finger-pointing. What will the developer and its owners say by then? A question of more importance: Where will I, my family, my neighbors, and all the others who will be affected be by then? I hope not in the headlines.

We are asking for help. Because time, sad to say, is a luxury we do not have.

—GUILLERMO T. TIMUAT JR., Blk 1, Lot 6, Tulip St.Rolling Meadows 1, San Bartolome, Novaliches,Quezon City

The UN is for peoples

COMMENTARY

Lauro L. Baja Jr.

THE UNITED NATIONS CELEBRATED THE 61st anniversary of its creation facing numerous challenges. These challenges to the multilateral system are manifold and complex and mirror the immensity of the mission which the UN has been entrusted.

The objectives of the organization to "save generations from the scourge of war, reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, promote economic and social advancement of all peoples" remain as relevant now as 60 years ago. In the decades since the UN's creation, much has been achieved, even as new challenges have risen. While there are fewer inter-state conflicts and many civil wars have ended, peoples in many developing countries are still exposed to brutal conflicts. Furthermore, the spread of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism have not made the world a safe place to live in. The advancing processes of globalization have been accompanied by deepening divisions and conflicts between societies. Globalization has not resolved economic imbalances nor reduced poverty, and so far has not brought economies and peoples closer together.

It is significant to note that the charter of the United Nations refers to "we the peoples," rather than "all states." Today international relations are not a matter of states alone but more importantly among peoples. Thus, in the long run, the success of the United Nations will be measured by how the rule of law and the rights and dignity of men and women are protected and promoted. The true measure of success for the UN is how much it can deliver for the peoples who need it most.

The Philippines has been playing its own role to empower the UN. We just ended our widely-acclaimed two-year membership in the Security Council where we built bridges and promoted dialogue and unity. We are actively participating in the new Human Rights Council. We are confident of election to the Economic and Social Council next month, thereby making our own contribution to policy review, policy dialogue, and recommendations on issues of economic and social development, as well as for implementation of international development goals. Our innovative initiatives that link migration and development, on interfaith cooperation for peace, and on conversion of debts into equity in the Millennium Development Goals projects have been acknowledged and supported.

The United Nations is in the midst of wide-ranging reform processes aimed at empowering the organization to live up to the world's expectations. The reforms must place priority on the welfare and interest of the peoples of the world: their lives, their livelihood, and their dignity. The reforms can only grow in an environment where a culture of peace is planted and nurtured.

As Mr. United Nations, the late Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, said in 1945: "Let us make this floor the last battlefield." Franklin D. Roosevelt said in 1945: "The structure of world peace cannot be the work of one man, or of one party, or one nation... It must be a peace which rests on the cooperative effort of the whole world."

As a founding member of the United Nations, the Philippines will remain in the forefront of all efforts to achieve the aims of the organization and to ensure universal adherence to its purposes and principles.

Lauro Baja Jr. is the Philippine permanent representative to the United Nations.

Government moving double-time to pay veterans' arrears

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE front-page story on the Leyte Landing, war veterans and the P42 billion in veterans' benefits arrears. (PDI, 10/21/06) Doubtless, our veterans deserve all the benefits mandated by law.

The administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo is the first to frontally address and start the process of paying off the veterans' benefits arrears to our beloved war veterans, military retirees and their widows and orphans. It is now moving double-time in this direction.

The P42 billion referred to accumulated from 1990 to 2005, or a period of 15 years under four presidents. With our national fiscal position improving, President Arroyo jump-started the process of paying arrears by releasing P1 billion (outside the national budget for veterans' benefits) last June. Arrears are now being paid by the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office from this fund; a parallel effort to stop grafters and fixers from dipping their fingers into this veterans' fund has been successful with this month's arrest, by the National Bureau of Investigation, of eight alleged fixers and two PVAO employees.

Congress recognized the problem too, and appropriated P5 billion in the supplementary budget, which should be released to veterans and retirees soon. In the 2007 budget, the President recommended and the House approved another P26 billion for veterans' benefits. Still, we will constantly seek other supplementary funds to continue paying off the arrears.

The administration has also sought non-budgetary measures by which to pay the arrears. House Bill 5380 of Representatives Tomas Dumpit and Hermilando Mandanas was passed by the House recently, and Senate Bill 2241 of Sen. Richard Gordon is being seriously considered by the Senate defense committee of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon. These bills propose that certain government assets be managed and developed by government institutions and that the earnings therefrom be allocated for payment of veterans' benefits arrears.

The veterans, retirees and the public are assured that the government is taking all steps possible under current legal, fiscal and other parameters so that their arrears will be paid, in thankful recognition of their unique roles in defending our country's freedom and democracy.

—JESUS TERRY FERRER ADEVOSO, presidential assistant for veterans affairs, Office of the President, Malacañang, Manila

Disappointed with SC decision on Sigaw's petition

I WAS SADDENED BY THE SUPREME Court's junking of the people's initiative petition that was filed by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities in the Philippines. In my view, the high court gravely violated the basic principle of democracy. Sec. 1, Article II of our Constitution states: "The Philippines is a democratic and republican State. Sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them." Our honorable magistrates ignored this provision because of technicalities.

The opening paragraph of the decision penned by Justice Antonio Carpio stated: "The Lambino group failed to comply with the basic requirements of the Constitution for conducting people's initiative." Does it mean that before the people can exercise their sovereign power, there are requirements that must be complied with? Does it mean that the requirements are more compelling than the sovereign will? Of course, technicalities have their own significance; but more important is the fate of our country and people who are already tired of the games politicians have been playing on our country.

I was counting on Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban to vote in favor of the people's initiative. In Santiago vs Comelec, then Associate Justice Panganiban went against the majority decision which declared RA 6735 insufficient.

Afraid of the forces opposing President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Supreme Court has chosen to relegate objectivity, impartiality and independence to avoid criticism.

I do not think that the motion for reconsideration for the people's initiative petition will get a favorable response from the Court. But I am hoping that the justices will study the issue more deeply and more prayerfully, primarily taking into account the merits of the petition and the common good instead of the grumblings of a noisy few.

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2 RP kids die in Malaysia deportation

By Jerome Aning, *in Manila*
and Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

A HONG KONG-BASED migration group yesterday denounced the Philippine and Malaysian governments for the recent deaths of two children deported from Sabah as part of Malaysia's crackdown against illegal aliens.

The Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants said Manila and Kuala Lumpur were jointly liable for their gross neglect in the untimely death of two undocumented Filipino children deported from Sabah to Zamboanga.

The two children, Timah Basir and Nurhani Nurmi, died after being deported with their parents from Sabah on Sept. 29.

According to APMM welfare officer Esther Bangcawayan, Basir, 13, died of severe malnutrition and hypoglycemia hours after the ferry left Sabah. Nurmi, 3, died the following day after arriving in the Philippines. She suffered from chronic gastroenteritis, severe malnutrition and severe pneumonia.

"Despite growing global protest mounted against the unjust and inhumane detention and deportation of undocumented im/migrants, the Malaysian government continues with this cruelty while the Philippine government on one hand has not lifted a finger or uttered a word of condemnation on this incident, among many other unfortunate cases," APMM said.

It quoted Sabah Immigration Department head Baharon Talib as admitting that no medical checkup has been made on the deportees, an admission that even the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, or Suhakam, has condemned.

SIMA Jaina Indi plays with other deported children, saying she missed her childhood when she was in Tawau, Malaysia before they were deported to the Philippines. JULIE ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

The group also quoted Department of Social Welfare and Development regional director Geraldine Valbuena declaring no complaints would be made as the parents of both children "have accepted their children's fate" and had no adverse reaction.

"Instead of denouncing the Malaysian government for its neglect, the Philippine government opted not to press charges or call for investigation," APMM said.

Baharon and Valbuena's statements were "worth the people's ire for this clearly presents the Philippine government's criminal neglect on the plight of the many Filipinos who have been unjustly and inhumanely treated and deported by the Malaysian authorities," Bangcawayan said.

"How many children have to die before the Philippine government takes action? How many children have to suffer, women to be raped and people to be dehumanized before the Malaysian government ceases from this crime?" she asked.

Soraya Jain, 36, one of the deportees, admitted that raising children in Tawau, Malaysia is like taking care of criminals.

"We keep our children away from public eye. As much as possible we don't allow them to leave the house. We don't even trust our fellow Filipinos or else we all end up in jail," Jain said.

Jain, whose passport name is Wikna Wahid, is a native of Jolo, Sulu. She stayed in Malaysia for 13 years, got married there and has an 11-year-old daughter, Sima Jain Indi.

Speaking in Malayo and translated by her mother, Sima said she wanted to play around with other children.

"But I don't have *bansi* (yellow passport). Without *bansi* I am illegal, I am wanted."

The entire Indi family was arrested in early September by Malaysian immigration officials inside their residence.

"As long as we are keeping our child without *bansi*, we are still treated outlawed there," Jain said.

She, however, admitted she was glad she and her family have returned to Sulu.

"I will no longer deprive my child of her dreams to play with other kids and she can continue her study in Jolo," Jain added.

Ruaida Nurissa, 30, and her four children, suffered the same fate.

"We were all detained for eight months," Nurissa lamented.

Nurissa blamed her Filipino neighbors for their arrest, "Because of them, my children languished in jail for almost a year," she said.

Typhoon 'Paeng' cuts flower prices by half

BAGUIO CITY—IT'S NOT ALL bad news about "Paeng."

Prices of flowers here went down by 50 percent on Monday because traders feared that supertyphoon "Paeng" would drive away customers preparing for All Saints' Day.

Anthuriums, Malaysian mums, gladiolas and roses, grown by Benguet farmers, are always in great demand in Metro Manila during "Undas" (Feast of the Dead).

Josephine Cachero said many of the more than 100 flower vendors at Burnham Park here decided to just dispose of their supplies on Sunday night when reports said the supertyphoon would strike the summer capital.

Also, competition provided by farmers selling their products at half the price, as well as the unlighted park over the weekend, convinced the traders that this was a bad week for business, Cachero said.

"They figured cashing in on their flower supply is a better proposition for them. What would they do with wilted flowers?," she said.

But the rains were not as bad.

Some of the traders put up stalls they had already folded up the night before. They left their children napping on damp cardboard under Burnham Park's Melvin Jones grandstand as they lugged back to their rented spaces bundles of flowers.

"I decided to stick to my old prices because I spent too much setting up this stall, and it is turning out to be a nightmare. We usually get back our investments on the second day. We've been here since [Oct. 26] and I have not even broken even," Cachero said.

Most stalls sold a dozen gladiolas for P12 and a bundle of Malaysian mums for P70.

THESE flower vendors are trying to win back some of their investments, after news of a supertyphoon drove away their customers preparing for All Saints' Day. EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

In nearby La Trinidad, Benguet, where the flowers are actually grown, sales were brisk, according to vendor Erlinda Garoy.

Asters cost P25-P30 per bundle while spray mums cost P80-P100 a dozen. Anthurium remained the elitist favorite, because a dozen of the largest stems sold for P80 and P100.

But Cachero admitted that colleagues and itinerant vendors, who cut their prices, have already damaged Monday's sales.

Blue, green and multi-hued jute sacks that served as the traders' rain canopies competed for attention with their violet-hued Baby's Breathe and red and orange anthuriums, every time a strong wind blew across the park.

Acting Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said Baguio had been hosting several conferences since last week, and hotels were fully booked when Paeng approached Northern Luzon.

Vincent Cabreza and Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Military can't pay electric bills, but has funds to wage war on Reds

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

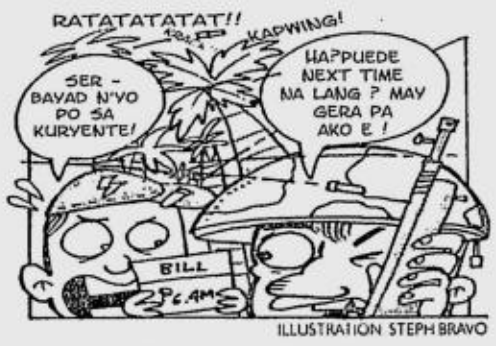

ILLUSTRATION STEPH BRAVO

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija—Unpaid electric bills by Army units here reached P6.4 million as of September, but this was no indication that the military had no money for the second phase of the all-out war against communist rebels in Central Luzon, an Army official said.

Maj. Gen. Juanito Gomez, chief of the 7th Infantry Division, the host unit here, said the arrears had accumulated over a number of years.

Gomez, who assumed the post from retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan on Sept. 11, said several commanders before him had tried settling the amount on a staggered basis, an arrangement approved by an electric cooperative to which that debt was due.

The amount represented the electricity consumed by the division, the training and doctrine command and the special operations command whose operations are based in this camp, by far the biggest that the Army maintains throughout the country.

The camp's land area, originally spanning 73,000 hectares in 1955, has been reduced to 33,469 hectares. The training areas cover 2,000 hectares where some 200 buildings and structures are spread out.

Power supply here has not been cut because this camp is vital to the military's operations in Northern and Central Luzon, officials said.

Gomez could not immediately cite the amount currently available or likely to come to partly settle off the debt up to December or next year.

But the Army's funds for the next round of the counterinsurgency drive, to be carried out in close coordination, this time, with the Philippine National Police and local governments, were "sufficient," he said.

He said every special operations team (six to eight soldiers clustered to operate in rebel-influenced or controlled villages) works on a P30,000 budget at least.

In June, President Macapagal-Arroyo committed to allot P1 billion for the campaign, which she wanted to be finished in two years.

Lt. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, chief of the military's Northern Luzon Command, said while the military has "maintained an upper hand" in the fight against communist rebels in the Ilocos, Cordillera, Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon, government forces there need to "cement the gains."

"There is no question that we are succeeding in reducing the capability of the enemy, but it is not yet the time to declare victory," Ramos said in a statement.

OUTSTANDING COPS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Lucena Community Council of Elders recently held its biennial search for the outstanding policemen of the city. Lucena's five outstanding policemen are SPO2 Renato Pelobello, PO2 Elena M. Eleazar, SPO4 Rolando Camonias, SPO2 Nelson Antenor and PO3 Arthur Zenon. They are shown in photo holding their plaques.

The 2006 DLSAA
Lasallian Merit Awardees

The De La Salle Alumni Association realizes that recognition is one vehicle to properly reward achievement of quality and excellence. It publicly applauds and reinforces the Association's agreement with De La Salle University - Manila's educational goal of producing 'Christian Achievers for God and Country.

The DLSAA Lasallian Merit Award recognizes alumni who have brought distinction to any De La Salle Brothers - Philippine District school by placing in the top ten of any licensure examination given by either the Professional Regulation Commission or the Supreme Court of the Philippines in the case of bar examinees.

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7th, civil engineering

FE MARIE FERRER ALEJANDRE
1st, veterinary medicine

JONAH LOMIBAO AMORA
1st, medicine

MICHELE DEE ANG
7th, accountancy

PAUL MICHAEL GO ANG
1st, accountancy

CATHERINE DIANE LOMIBAO ANGSANTO
5th, electronics and communications engineering

ALLEN MICHAEL APUHIN ARENDON
8th, electronics and communications engineering

CHRISTIAN JOHN PELAEZ BARLIS
9th, electronics and communications engineering

PAMELA ISA EVANGELISTA BASILIO
5th, medicine

JEFFREY PARCERO BERNARDO
2nd, civil engineering

JONATHAN BOCALBOS BULATAO
5th, electronics and communications engineering

MARK OLIVER CAIDO CARDEÑO
8th, civil engineering

MARK AARON CHAN CHAN
3rd, mechanical engineering

TITUS ROY GARCIA CHENG
6th, chemical engineering

BRILLANT MATANGUIHAN CHUA
1st, mechanical engineering

HENDRICK TAN CHUA
2nd, electronics and communications engineering

KRISTINE KAREN TAN CO
7th, accountancy

HAROLD WAYNE RATONEL CRUZ
7th, civil engineering

AENEAS ELI SARMIENTO DIAZ
1st, bar

ALVIN AUREO TAYLO ENDAYA
1st, accountancy

ANA JANICE PANTE ESGUERRA
4th, accountancy

JOHN CARLO I. SANTOS FAJARDO
3rd, electronics and communications engineering

ERNESTO ARROZ FERNANDEZ , JR.
6th, agriculturist

WILLIAM BENSON SZE GAN
6th, accountancy

GLEN IBAÑEZ GILONGOS
1st, professional teachers

CHLOE CHIZU GO CEDENIO GO
3rd, accountancy

ANNA LEONILA MONTEVERDE GO
5th, veterinary medicine

MINA DEL ROSARIO DE GUZMAN
9th, veterinary medicine

MARIA CLARIBEL CAMPOS LAPIÑA
7th, chemistry

OSCAR CHING LEE, JR.
3rd, civil engineering

FLOYD MATTHEW GALABO MASCENON
10th, electronics and communications engineering

JAMES OWEN BERJA MIRANDILLA
8th, veterinary medicine

STEPHANIE SAN JUAN MUSA
8th, nursing

DIANA LOU ELVINIA NAVARRO
10th, accountancy

SARAH CAMILLE SAN DIEGO OBLEPIAS
2nd, accountancy

KLARIBELLE MOJICA OBSUM
5th, electronics and communications engineering

FERLINE TANYA CHAN ONG
6th, mechanical engineering

CECILLE ANN MARANAN QUINTOS
8th, chemistry

JOEL CESARIUS VILLANUEVA REYES
3rd, civil engineering

MICHAEL IAN RONDARIO
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JESMON RYAN SANTIAGO SO
2nd, civil engineering

LLOYD BRIAN MATONDO SO
10th, accountancy

NICKLAUS ERICK CUA SY
1st, chemical engineering

JEFFREY TIU TAN
2nd, electronics and communications engineering

MARY JOSEPHINE DONOR TESALONA
5th, accountancy

HAZEL ALVARAN TUAZON
3rd, medicine

ELVIN IVAN YAW UY
1st, electronics and communications engineering

MYNN MICHELLE DY VARELA
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ERICK FRANZ PALILLO VERGARA
6th, accountancy

ELSINORE CAMILLE GO YAO
5th, accountancy

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6th, accountancy

JESSICA CHESA GO YU
5th, accountancy

ANTHONY JOSEPH PAJAR ZARA
10th, mechanical engineering

We salute them.

De La Salle Alumni Association

OBSERVERS

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Children and adults witness the highlights of festival celebrations during the Western Visayas Tourism Week in Iloilo City. The Parade of Festivals, participated by 17 different festival organizers in six provinces, includes the Aklan Ati-Atihan Festival, Antique Binirayan Festival, Bacolod Masskara Festival, Capiz Halaran Festival, Iloilo Dinagyang Festival and the Negros Occidental Babaylan Festival.

Maguindanao voters approve new province

COTABATO CITY—VOTERS IN Maguindanao's 29 municipalities have approved the creation of a new province to be composed of 10 towns, the Commission on Elections here said.

Kasan Usi, acting Maguindanao provincial election supervisor, said the plebiscite conducted Saturday went on peacefully.

Of Maguindanao's more than 500,000 registered voters, 285,372 favored the creation of Shariff Kabunsuan province.

Only 8,802 voted against it, he added.

"Gov. (Zaldy) Ampatuan will soon name the officials who will run the affairs of Shariff Kabunsuan," engineer Norie Unas, Maguindanao provincial administrator, told the INQUIRER.

There are talks that Maguindanao Vice Gov. Bimbo Sinsuat will be named caretaker of the youngest local government unit in the country. But Unas refused to comment on this.

Sinsuat himself has kept his mouth shut when asked to comment on reports that the regional governor had chosen him to head the new province.

Shariff Kabunsuan became the country's 80th province and the 6th in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The new province, carved out of Maguindanao, is composed of the towns of Datu Odin Sinsuat, Kabuntalan, Upi, Sultan Kudarat, Datu Blah Sinsuat, Sultan Mastura, Parang, Buldon, Matanog and Barira.

ARMM is now composed of Maguindanao, Shariff Kabunsuan, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and the city of Marawi.

The new province was named after an Arab-Malay Islamic preacher who introduced Islam in Central Mindanao in the 14th century. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

Rape of Sierra Madre pinned on DENR execs

LUCENA CITY—THE TANGGOL Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog (TK-ST), a public interest environmental legal defense center, urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to investigate the culpability of local environment officials in Quezon province for the return of rampant illegal logging activities in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges in the Real-Infanta-General Nakar (Reina) area.

"By command responsibility, the local DENR personnel must be held accountable for the continued illegal logging operations in northern Quezon. They are supposed to guard and protect the Sierra Madre, but with the ongoing indiscriminate forest destruction in their area of jurisdiction, it only shows that they are remiss in their task," the TK-ST said in a statement furnished the INQUIRER.

The group demanded that Felipe Ortiz, head of DENR-Quezon, and Antonio Diwa, chief of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) based in Real town, resign from their posts to give way to a more competent leadership.

The TK-ST, the most active environmental protection group in Sierra Madre, criticized Ortiz for allegedly tolerating illegal logging in Sierra Madre.

Reached by the INQUIRER through his mobile phone, Ortiz pointed at Diwa as the one to blame for the resurgence of illegal logging.

Diwa strongly denied the accusation. He said he was ready to face any investigative body to prove his innocence.

"I have nothing to fear," he said in a mobile phone interview.

Forest protection advocates have long suspected that unscrupulous local environment officials, corrupt law enforcers and town officials are in cahoots with illegal loggers.

It was believed that Emrich Borja, Ortiz's predecessor at the DENR-Quezon, had been relieved from his post following a petition submitted to Malacañang by Church leaders, government officials and residents in the Reina area for his failure to curb illegal logging in the Sierra Madre and blaming Church-based nongovernment organizations as the culprits.

The TK-ST confirmed earlier reports by an INQUIRER source regarding the unauthorized operation of several band sawmills in the village of Banugao in Infanta.

It cited an incident on Oct. 28 when illegally cut logs were seen being transported to illegal mobile band sawmills in Banugao. Due to rampant illegal logging, some sawmill operators commission other operators to do the job.

Workers from the illegal sawmills also assist in the transport of logs down the mountains to the Agos River, according to the TK-ST.

The group said the hauling of illegally cut logs usually took place twice a week and under cover of darkness. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Why not the world?

– Lea Salonga

Dare to ask.
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Tribal burial practices die natural deaths

By Inquirer Northern, Central and Southern Luzon

(First of two parts)

BENGUET'S AGE-OLD PRACTICES on the dead are slowly dying, but tales from its elders show that some are far from being buried forever, particularly in remote villages.

The "*sangadil*" and the "*ukat*" are examples.

In the *sangadil*, the dead is propped up on a chair during the wake.

"He literally sits instead of being laid inside a coffin," said Board Member Sario Copas, chair of the provincial board's committee on indigenous peoples.

The practice though is reserved for the *kadangyan* or the rich, he said. And the richer the person is, the longer will be the wake that is marked by the butchering of pigs and other animals.

Some wakes last 10 to 12 days, or longer, he said.

A "*pinalpagan*," an expensive and special blanket, is often used to cover the body, said Alfredo Alangdeo. His father Abraham was mourned in the "*sangadil*" in 2001 in Barangay Poblacion in Bakun town.

In the "*ukat*," the coffin is retrieved from the burial site and opened, said Board Member Joseph Cosente. "The remaining bones ... (is) transferred to a new coffin and reburied."

Cosente said the event would be marked with the butchering of animals and prayers from the "*mambunong*" or tribal priest.

Elders summon the ritual when things go bad in the family, such as a recurring illness, bad dreams and nightmares, or unusual events considered bad omen or bad luck.

"The body is exhumed to be given a new resting place," Cosente said.

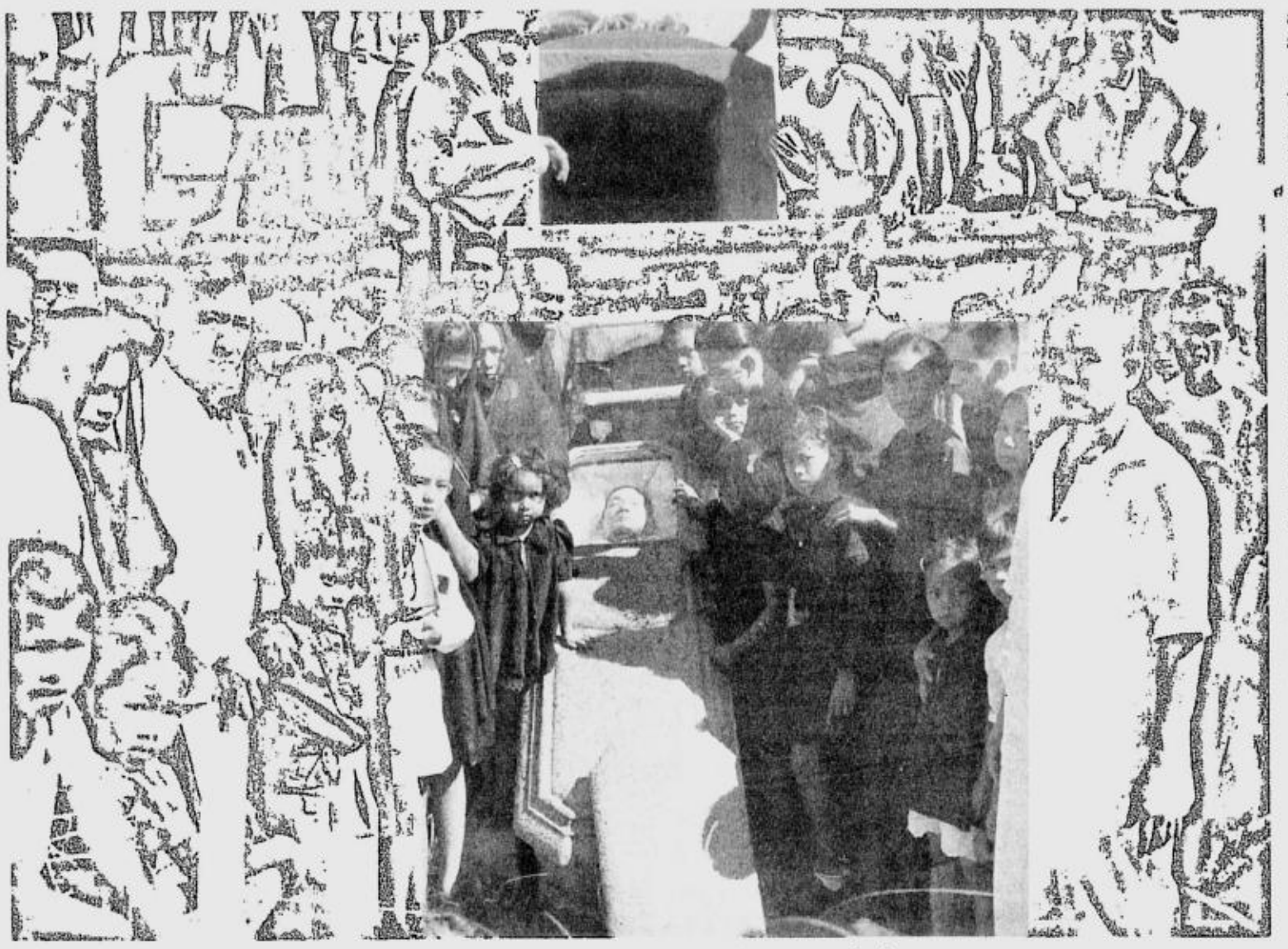
"This is done to appease the dead who is believed to have been restless in his sleep. His discomfort is reflected on the unusual signs on the living world which the living would readily take notice of," said Copas.

The use of wooden coffins is still preferred in Benguet. "But no nail should be used [in the coffin] because it will surely make the dead fidget in his grave," Copas said.

The belief is that the nail is considered a foreign object not fit to be used in the coffin. The elders also consider it taboo to use metal in a coffin, as the corpse is not allowed to wear any metallic object, such as jewelry.

But how will the coffin be assembled without nails?

Cosente said specially crafted wooden nails are used.



A PHOTO of an unidentified Kapampangan clan grieving their dead before the body was entombed.

PHOTOS FROM ALEX CASTRO COLLECTION

Aeta

Paule Cosme saw something else when she looked at the trees at the eastern ranges of Mount Pinatubo.

"*Ken la makakutkut reng apu mi* (That's where our grandparents are buried)," Cosme said of the tallest tree towering above the thin forest seen from Barangay Tarukan in Capas, Tarlac.

She said the tree was chosen as a burial place for the *natsi* (dead kin) because of its height.

Her father Libreng and mother Indu also want it for their final resting place in the *lutan tua* (ancestral land), Cosme said. Her brother, Gerry, and cousins, Makara and Bituka Gutierrez, are expected to carry on their wishes when the time comes, they said.

No one is to be buried right at the new site of Tarukan, the elders said. It now sits on a valley overlooking the O'Donnell River. Although Pinatubo has not been restive again, lahar (ash, sand, mud and rocks) has kept piling high on the river each time it rained, pushing the families to settle farther uphill.

It is not because of this risk that the Aeta do not bury their dead close to their homes. They usually bury the departed in farm plots or in the mountain's upper flanks that the clans claim as their own, said Nelson Pangilinan, the tribal chief in Tarlac.

More than 50 children in the Cosme clan who died of measles and diarrhea during their stay in evacuation centers after the volcano's eruption in 1991 were buried at the foothills of Pinatubo.

> 'The belief is that the nail is considered a foreign object not fit to be used in the coffin...'

Like those in Tarukan, those who have returned to Patal Pinto, Pisapungan, Abo, Manalala, Pina, Alunan, Doray, Pantol and Bulakan bury their loved ones in the mountains.

Indu, a *mag-aanito* (medium) who leads the burial rites, said the old practices were less cumbersome.

Wake is over within 12 hours and burial is done after the leaders have whispered to the ears of the departed the messages they wished to convey to Apo Namalyari (mountain deity), after the *mag-aanito* has chanted the prayers and they have offered grains, water, *tapil* (tobacco) and red cloth, and lit the *talo palilan* (beeswax).

The dead is not embalmed, just wrapped in a mat or blanket, buried five feet deep into the ground secured on the sides by bamboo pads or wood.

The head of a dead adult would face the west toward the *gayang* (large stone) of Apo Namalyari. A child is buried facing Mt. Arayat in the east.

There is no specific date set for giving respect to the dead. That is done throughout an Aeta's life, said Indu.

"Their spirits dwell in the place all the time," she said.

The *Kamana* (bad or malicious spirits) are the ones they dread to encounter for they harm humans.

Ilocanos

The Ilocanos believe that the spirit of the dead hovers near that person's house immediately after death and tries to reenter the body.

According to Raul Pertierra's 1988 book on life in a remote Ilocos Sur town, "Religion, Politics, and Rationality in a Philippine Community," one way of convincing the spirit to leave is by singing death chants or the *dungaw*.

Another is careful washing of the dead person's hair with a concoction from burnt rice straw.

The dead may communicate with the living through spirit possession or *naluganan*, which, Pertierra said, was very common in wakes and the medium usually a close relative or neighbor.

The spirit lingers in the area for 40 days. A year after death, it is again invited to rejoin the living relatives in a feast that could last four days.

During the wake, relatives do not meet visitors or are allowed to greet or accompany them when they leave, for this may attract the spirit. The women usually stay inside the house while the men gather outside.

Visitors are given oil (*lana*) to rub on their tummy as the spirit usually causes abdominal pains. Upon reaching home, the guests rub themselves with *malunggay* (horseradish) leaves as a cleansing ritual, Pertierra said.

Camarines tribe

In the Kabihug tribal community in the Camarines provinces, the dead is wrapped in cloth but the eyes are left open to "see the path" ahead and if ever the dead lives again, it would not be dark, said Asisclo Bagaindoc, chief of the technical management division of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

The Kabihugs number more than 5,000.

"They dig a not-so-deep grave to bury the dead in a specific burial ground and place him there," Bagaindoc said.

The grave is covered with soil and the area is fenced with bamboo as high as four feet to keep animals away. Food is hung in the bamboo so the dead would not get hungry.

Another tribe, the Aeta-Abiyan, often called Negritos, believe in the afterlife although they do not worship the Christian God, hold marriage rites or practice formal religion, according to the Philippine Information Agency website. They number about 12,000 and live in Sitio Igan, Barangay Batobalani, in Paracale, Camarines Norte.

"When an Abiyan dies, neighbors across the hills are called by shouting to announce the '*patapusan*,' the death rites which take place three months afterwards. At the *patapusan*, there are dancing, chanting of the *lidong*, and weeping and wailing over the passing of a loved one," it said.

Mangyan

In Occidental Mindoro, the Buhid Mangyan followed traditional practices during the burial of Laki (grandfather) Iwan de Jesus, a well-respected elder in Barangay Danlog, San Jose town, early this year.

According to the Lay-ot Gana, a son of Laki Iwan, family members, relatives and friends brought the body directly to the cemetery in Liphan, a mountain to the right of a river, at night. Later, during the "*agtanod*," they spent sleepless nights in his house.

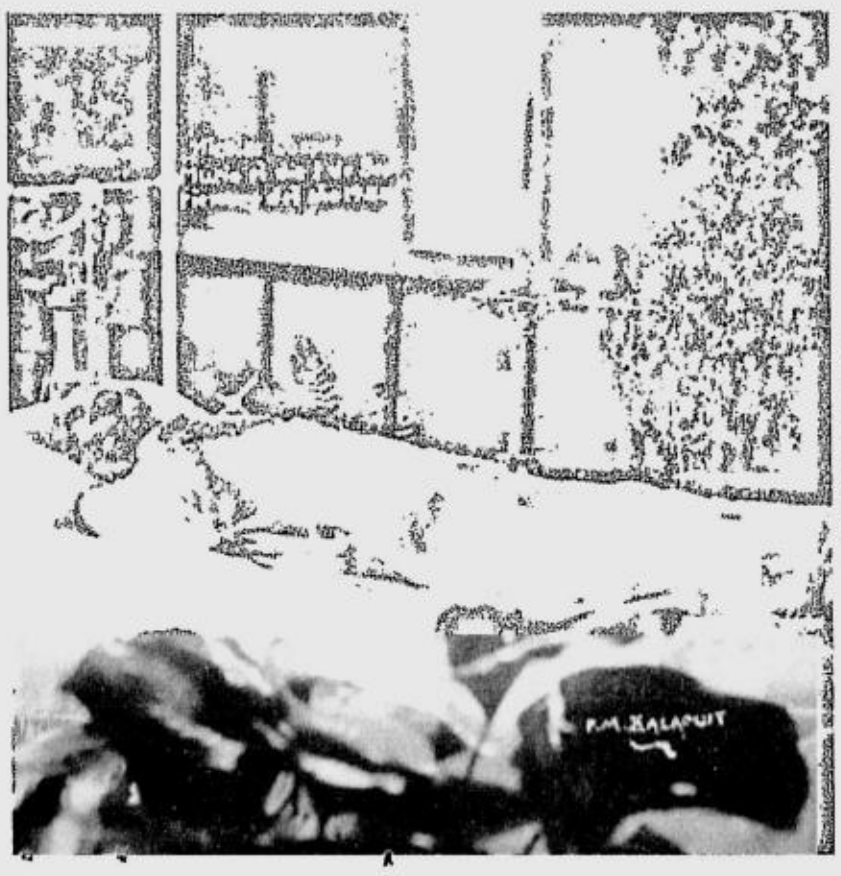
While the elder's three sons stayed inside the house, guests provided them comfort outside by telling happy stories.

Lay-ot's wife, Inaya, acted as intermediary to the sons, bringing water, other drinks and messages. Members of the immediate family are allowed to mingle with other people only until the sixth day after burial.

On that day, the "*famasagayan*" is held. The walls and fences of the house are removed and the main building destroyed, except for the roof.

Fourteen pigs are butchered, chopped and boiled with salt.

The tribe believes that no humans should live in the destroyed house lest they meet bad fate, like sickness. *Reports from Delmar Cariño and Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon; Joanna Los Baños and Madonna T. Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



IN SOME instances, Kapampangans of old lay their dead loved ones in beds as if they were just asleep.

LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA PILIPINAS

PUBLIC ADVISORY

In order to observe the solemnity of

ALL SAINTS' DAY

the following will be prohibited inside

MANILA NORTH CEMETERY
MANILA SOUTH CEMETERY
LA LOMA CEMETERY (Manila Portion)

From October 31, 2006 to November 2, 2006:

- ALL vehicles including bicycles, motorcycles and scooters
- knives and any sharp objects
- liquor and alcoholic beverages
- paints
- mobile and fixed sound systems, music players, guitars
- any form of gambling including playing cards
- illegal vendors

The following roads will be closed to traffic from 4:00 am of November 1, 2006:

1. Aurora Boulevard from Dimasalang to Rizal Avenue
2. Blumentritt from A. Bonifacio to P. Guevarra
3. Dimasalang from Makiling to Blumentritt
4. Retiro from Dimasalang to Blumentritt

Parking shall only be allowed along streets outside of the above road closures.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Mayor Lito Atienza
City of Manila

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FOUR DIGIT SUERTRES Mid-Day: 5 4 9 / 0 2 2 / 4 4 4 (All in exact order)
MEGALOTTO 6/45: 13 20 30 36 40 42 ₱9,384,123.60

FLOODED STREET
Villagers in Sitio Rubangulb, San Vicente, Ilagan, Isabela, ride a boat to seek shelter on higher grounds and escape the floods unleashed by Typhoon Paeng on Monday.
VILLAMOR VISAYA JR. / INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

6 'jailed' Marine colonels moved in the dead of night

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT ON SUNDAY WHILE LUzon was being battered by super typhoon "Paeng," six Marine officers implicated in last February's coup attempt were spirited away from their Fort Bonifacio detention to a more secure naval facility in Cavite City.

The officers included the bemedalled and charismatic Col. Ariel Querubin, who led his fellow Marines in protest over the sacking of their commandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, on Feb. 27 following the discovery of the alleged coup plot.

Sunday's transfer was carried out on orders of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. while Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga was abroad. Esperon claimed the six were planning to escape.

Military intelligence reports, according to Agence France Presse quoting a military official, said sympathizers were planning to free them.

The Marine officers, aside from Querubin, were Col. Orlando de Leon, former Marines chief of staff; Lt. Col. Armando Bañez, former deputy commandant for plans and programs; Lt. Col. Custodio Parcon, former deputy commandant for operations; Lt. Col. Achilles Segumalian, former battalion commander, and Col. Januario Caringal.

A Navy spokesperson, however, said Mayuga approved the transfer before he left for Hawaii on Sunday to attend a top-level Western Pacific naval symposium.

Mayuga last week had announced the six Marine officers' transfer from the Bonifacio Naval Station custodial center to the Fort San Felipe detention facility in Cavite City.

But he dropped the plan and had the six moved instead to the Marine detention center also at Fort Bonifacio.

"The move was based on the directive of General Esperon to transfer the six Marine officers to a more secure detention facility," Navy spokesperson Cmdr. Giovanni Bacordo said yesterday.

Bacordo said acting Navy FOIC, Rear Admiral Rufino Lopez, carried out the transfer "based on the recommendation of the naval staff with due regard to national security and military discipline."

The six were among the 13 Marine officers led by Miranda who are facing possible court-martial for attempted mutiny along with 150 Army Scout Rangers led by their former commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim.

They were alleged involved in a plot with communist insurgents and opposition figures to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo in February.

The plot failed and the President placed the country under a State of Emergency as loyal officers rounded up those involved in the plot.

Lim, 25 other Scout Ranger officers and 125 personnel implicated in the planned withdrawal of support from President Arroyo are being held at a maximum security facility at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, also upon Esperon's orders.

According to sources, Querubin and the five other officers were told they would be moving out shortly before their transfer late Sunday night. They were allowed to pack their belongings but were reportedly prevented from using their cell phones.

They arrived at Fort San Felipe in a convoy at around 1:30 a.m. on Monday, according to the Navy.

"They were expecting the transfer that day," Bacordo said.

Querubin's lawyer denied his client planned to escape, claiming the military made up the story to justify his transfer to Cavite City.

Querubin and Parcon are recipients of the Medal of Valor, the highest military honor. Querubin had also received numerous citations for his exploits on the battlefield. *With an AFP report*

GLOBE MOVES

PAMANA ANIMATED WALLPAPERS

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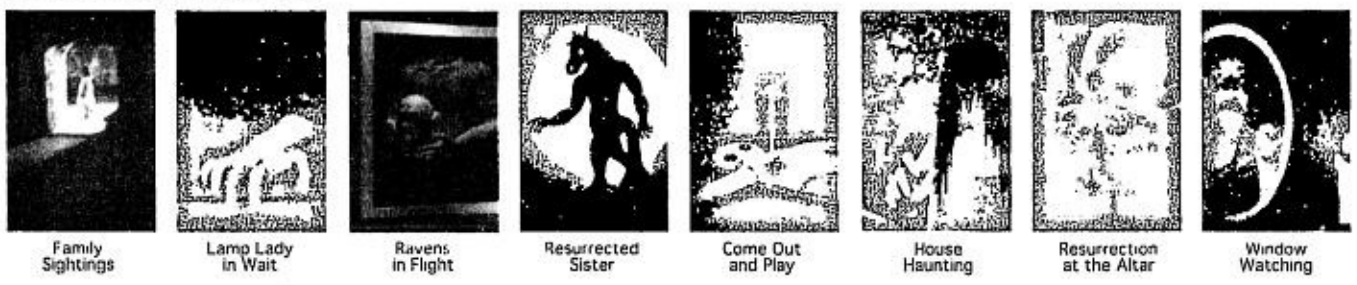
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Bulusan spews ash anew but Phivolcs rules out eruption

THE RESTIVE BULUSAN VOLCANO belched ash anew yesterday, but scientists said there was no evidence it was gearing up for a major eruption.

The 1,560-meter Mount Bulusan in Sorsogon province exploded before noon, spewing ash for 30 minutes up to a kilometer into the cloudy sky, said Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology director Renato Solidum.

He said rainwater converted into steam could have triggered the explosion.

Despite the latest activity, Solidum said Bulusan's alert status, which is at the lowest level, will not be raised.

"We don't see any rise in a new batch of magma" or evidence of an imminent eruption, he added.

Mayor Edwin Hamor of Casiguran town said he has alerted residents to the risk that rain could wash volcanic debris down its slopes, and of the health hazards from ash explosions.

Hamor said falling ash may exacerbate the predicament of those whose houses remained roofless after being damaged by powerful Typhoon Milenyo, which battered the country late last month.

Bulusan came back to life in March and has been intermittently expelling ash and steam.

It is one of 22 active volcanos in the Philippines, which lies in the Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire," where volcanic activity and earthquakes are common. *AP*

A plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: Inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Rerouting schemes on major roads

Orderly traffic flow assured for Nov. 1-2 trek to cemeteries

By Tina G. Santos, Tarra V. Quismundo and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IN ANTICIPATION OF A BUILDUP IN THE volume of vehicles in areas surrounding Metro Manila's cemeteries, various local governments will be implementing rerouting schemes to ensure the orderly flow of traffic on Nov. 1 and 2.

In Manila, traffic on the streets leading to the La Loma Cemetery, Chinese Cemetery and North and South cemeteries will be rerouted beginning at 4 a.m. Wednesday until 4 a.m. the following day.

A portion of Aurora Boulevard (from Rizal Avenue to Makiling Street) and peripheral roads will be closed, as well as Retiro (from Aurora Boulevard up to Blumentritt), Dimasalang (from Calle Tiago to Blumentritt) and Maceda (from Retiro to Makiling).

Motorists coming from the north, particularly Caloocan and Quezon cities, going to Pier North in Tondo, should take C3 Road toward Jose Abad Santos Avenue or Road 10.

Those coming from Quezon City going to Pier South (Ermita) should take D. Tuazon Street or Mayon Street toward España or A. H. Lacson Avenue to Quiapo.

Side streets near the closed roads, meanwhile, have been designated as parking areas. No vehicles will be allowed in all Manila cemeteries, except for security or emergency medical service vehicles, city and police officials said.

Around 100 portable toilets (portalets) have been set up inside the cemeteries for the convenience of those who will be visiting their dead loved ones. There will also be lost and found stations, first aid clinics. Policemen, along with youth volunteers, will be deployed to assist cemetery goers.

Mayor Lito Atienza reminded visitors of Manila cemeteries that any kind of weapon and liquor are banned, along with loud music and gambling. In Makati City, Department of Public Services (DPS) chief Hermenegildo San Miguel said yesterday that the city's rerouting scheme will take effect at 1 p.m. today until 4 a.m. on Nov. 2 on streets leading to the Manila South Cemetery, Makati Cemetery and Makati Catholic Cemetery.

Motorists coming from Edsa Guadalupe using J.P. Rizal Street to Manila should turn right to Trabajo Street, left to Hippodromo, then straight to A.P. Reyes Street to their destination. Eastbound vehicles coming from Del Pan should go straight to Edsa Guadalupe through J.P. Rizal, which will temporarily become a two-way street from Makati Avenue to Trabajo.

Westbound from Edsa using Jupiter Street should take a left to Nicanor Garcia Street (formerly Reposo) then right

REROUTING/ A18

On your way to cemetery? Check this list

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

VISITING CEMETERIES TOMORROW? DON'T bring expensive pieces of jewelry or huge amounts of cash.

For those taking the jeep or bus, try not to bring too many bags or things to reduce the risk of losing any of these items.

On All Saints Day, police have promised to deploy more men to cemeteries. They have also produced a list of reminders—like the tips mentioned earlier—to guide residents who will be leaving their houses and trooping to the cemeteries.

The Philippine National Police Community Relations Group has distributed brochures to its five police districts in the metropolis which list the dos and don'ts for cemetery goers written in Filipino.

Those leaving their homes may find the following helpful:

Lock all doors and windows. If possible, install a burglar alarm to alert neighbors in case someone breaks in.

Avoid leaving notes saying nobody is in the house. Homeowners could also leave a transistor radio on to make it appear as if somebody is inside the house.

Ask a trusted neighbor to look after the house.

Don't leave lit candles behind and make sure electric or gas stoves, faucets and appliances have been switched off.

If the cemetery is just close by, families should just walk to their destination to avoid contributing to the expected traffic jam in areas leading to cemeteries, the brochure added.

Drivers should lock doors and windows, especially if there are children on board, while moving through traffic.

Drivers should make sure they have complete control of their cars: They should avoid one-hand driving or using cell phones while driving. They should not drive if they are drunk or sleepy.

Those getting on public vehicles should also be vigilant against pickpockets. Suspicious boxes or unattended bags should immediately be reported to authorities.

Police also reminded the public that vendors, as well as alcoholic drinks, are not allowed inside cemeteries.

Deadly weapons, loud speakers and gambling paraphernalia are also banned inside cemeteries, according to the brochure.

It added that parents should look after their small children who could get lost by pinning identification cards on them .

Lastly, the police reminded people to help keep cemeteries clean by bringing trash bags for their garbage.

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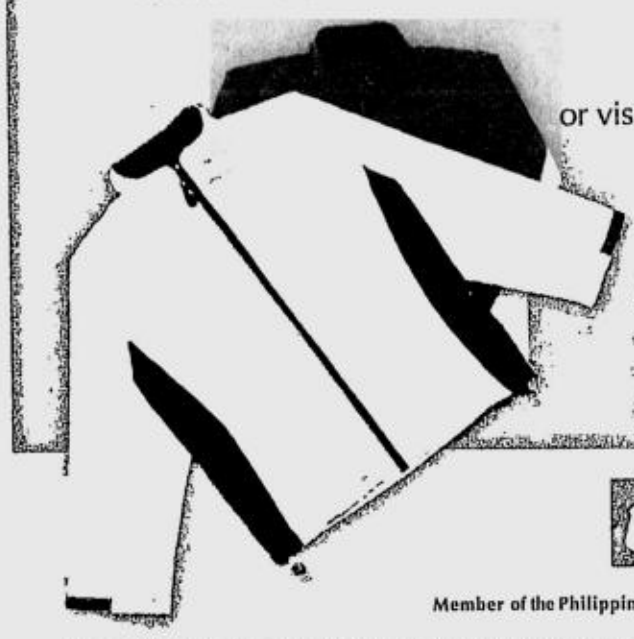

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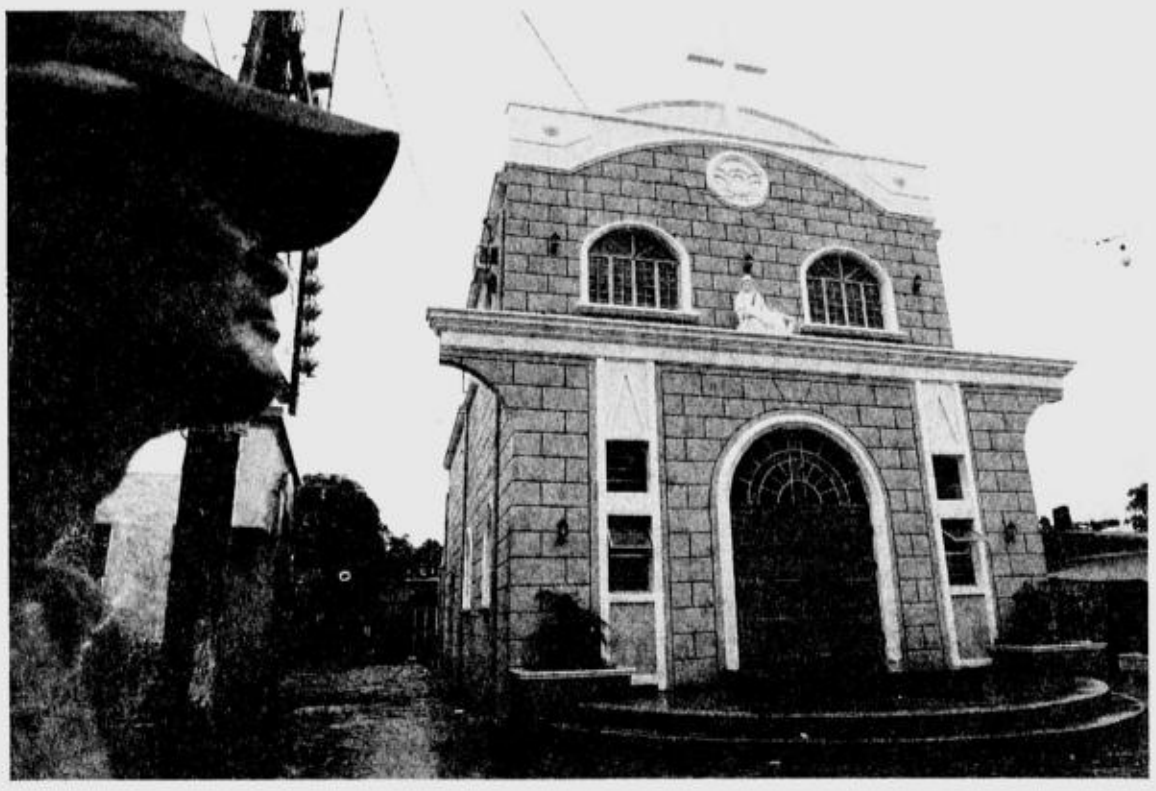
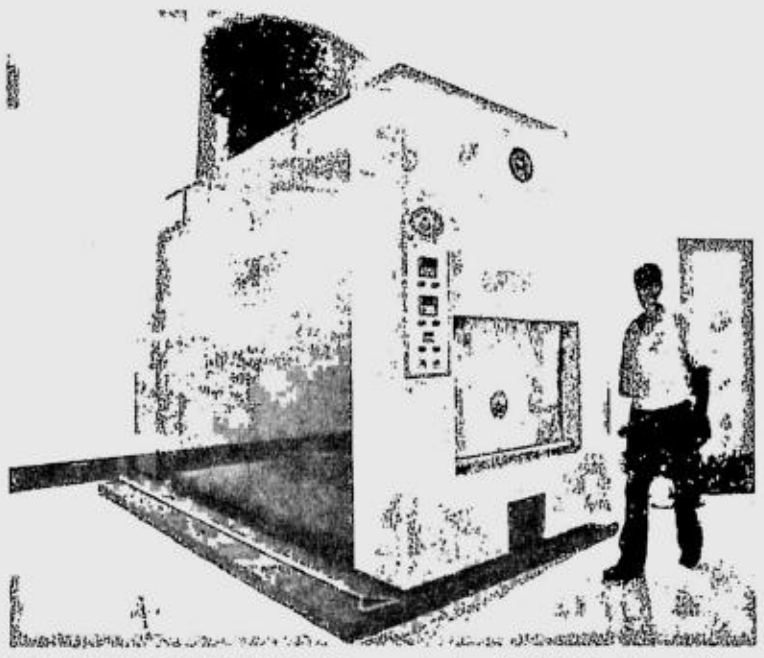
See flyers for details.

Pasay crematorium first run by local gov't in Metro

By Jocelyn R. Uy





THE NEWLY-CONSTRUCTED crematorium (left) in the Pasay City Cemetery has a cremator that was assembled using top of the line technology from Germany, the United States and Japan.

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

IN THE FUTURE, ALL THE REmaining space in Metro Manila could be occupied by the dead. But not in Pasay City.

The local government is now implementing a program to decongest the five-hectare city cemetery in Tramo.

Early next year, the apartment-style niches that tower over the thousands of tombs in the cemetery would be torn down to make way for a columbarium, Greg Alcera, former city vice mayor and former executive assistant, told the INQUIRER.

And if plans push through, people who troop to the cemetery on All Saints' Day every year could look forward .o wider spaces and pathways leading to the tombs of their departed loved ones.

"Apart from giving our constituents' dead loved ones a decent burial at a very low cost, we would also be able to decongest our cemetery," said Alcera, who had proposed the project to Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad last year.

The Pasay government has also put up a crematorium right in the middle of the cemetery, the first run by a local government in Metro Manila. Constructed by life coach and spiritual guru, Frank Regis, it has a room which also serves as a chapel where the family and relatives could witness the cremation process.

In a separate interview, Regis said that by investing in a crematorium, the city government was extending better services to its constituents—both the living and the dead.

Residents can now bury their dead for P10,000 to P15,000, compared to the traditional interment which would cost them between P35,000 and P40,000. Private crematories, on the other hand, charge from P25,000 to P35,000, he added.

Regis said the cremator, which he named "Portacoelli" (door to heaven), was assembled in Bangkok using a combination of top-of-the-line insulation technology from Germany; instrumentation from the United States and casing technology from Japan.

It can cremate bodies in 45 minutes to an hour using diesel, unlike other models which take three to four hours and run on liquefied petroleum gas, which is more expensive, he noted.

Alcera, on the other hand, said they would tap funeral parlors in the city to offer crematory services at a very affordable price to their constituents. Early next year, the city government would also include free metal caskets in its cremation package.

"We really intended the crematorium for our poor constituents. We want them to have dignity even in death. But we are also offering our services to nonresidents," he added.

Meanwhile, Regis stressed that with the crematorium, the city government would be able to develop land into commercial or residential property for its constituents instead of allotting these for new cemeteries.

Compared to manicured memorial parks that sit on a 40-ha land and house roughly 100,000 tombs, a columbarium could accommodate the same number of tombs but would only take up 5,000 square meters, he added.

"It is really advisable for local governments to run at least one facility in their cemeteries so that they would not worry looking for space for the dead," Regis said.

In Metro Manila, at least seven memorial parks and funeral parlors now operate crematoriums. Although the Catholic Church has given its approval to the process, the majority of Filipinos still prefer the traditional burial process, he noted.

"The higher strata, most of them already prefer cremation. It is the lower level of the society that still needs to be educated. But when they see its convenience, they will gradually accept it," Regis added.

Apart from convenience and cost-effectiveness, Regis has placed a "spiritual" slant on cremation. According to him, it is more "spiritually advisable" to cremate a body than bury it because it will allow immediate detachment of the soul from the body.

"To burn is to purify. Once the body is purified and the soul no longer sees it, he would realize that he is not his body nor is he defined by his body. This will allow for a fast healing process of the soul. Attachment of the soul to the body is what keeps these ghosts around," he explained.

Rerouting schemes on major roads

From page A17

to Gil Puyat Avenue (formerly Buendia).

Roads that will be closed include South Avenue (from J.P. Rizal Street to Metropolitan Avenue), Kalayaan Avenue (Zapote Street to Nicanor Garcia), Vito Cruz Extension (South Avenue to Zapote Street), Pililla, J.B. Roxas and Nicanor Garcia Streets (J.P. Rizal to Kalayaan Avenue), Kakarong Street (J.P. Rizal Street to Metropolitan Avenue) and Montojo and Yague Streets (Zapote to South Avenue).

On the other hand, traffic will be one-way on the eastbound side of J.P. Rizal Avenue (from Chino Roces Avenue to Trabajo Street) Nicanor Garcia Street (northbound from Jupiter to Kalayaan Avenue), Metropolitan Avenue (eastbound from Ayala Avenue Extension to Nicanor Garcia), westbound along Hippodromo, and eastbound on Kamagong (from Zobel Roxas to Ayala Avenue Extension).

The DPS will deploy some 500 personnel and members of the Makati Rescue team to cemeteries to augment the 350 Makati policemen on Nov. 1. Five Public Assistance Centers manned by policemen, DPS men and barangay watchmen, will also be set up around the city's cemeteries.

Depending on the traffic situation, the Marikina City Traffic Enforcement Unit will probably close A. Bonifacio Avenue to westbound motorists this afternoon.

Only eastbound motorists, or those coming from Quezon City, will be allowed on the thoroughfare which will be turned into a one-way road.

Those going to Loyola Memorial Park should take the two leftmost lanes while those going to the city proper should take the two rightmost lanes.

The service road under the Barangka Flyover connecting Marcos Highway to A. Bonifacio Avenue will also be closed to traffic.

Those going to Pasig City should also take alternate routes.

The city police will be closing the usually busy corner of Sixto Avenue Extension and Caruncho Avenue leading to City Hall and the Mutya ng Pasig Public Market starting this afternoon.

The Pasig City Catholic Cemetery is on Caruncho Avenue, next to the Immaculate Concepcion Church.

Those going to the Pasig City Catholic Cemetery and other areas in the city would have to take side streets. Police said they would post street signs to guide motorists.

METROBRIEFS

Cop kills man

HE BOUGHT *pancit* (noodles) for his family but he never got to bring it home. Roy Madara, 36, a sound technician of the Taguig City General Services Office, was shot dead by a policeman on his way home to Barangay Signal Village at around 10:30 p.m. Sunday. City police chief Supt. Alfred Corpus said Madara suffered four gunshot wounds in the head and chest. Corpus identified the suspect as PO2 Allan de la Peña who fled after the incident but later surrendered to police. Investigator SPO2 Conrad Mapili said that a previous misunderstanding between the two led to the incident.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Call for assistance

GINALYN Molar, a 1-year-old baby, underwent surgery in June to close an open artery in her heart. Her family, however, can barely raise the P4,000 she needs for her weekly maintenance and asthma medicine. Ginalyn also needs to gain weight as she only weighs six kilos, according to her doctor. Readers who would like to help her can call her mother, Gina, at 7460492, or deposit their donations in the bank account (1646-0310-32) of her father, Eymard, in any Land Bank of the Philippines branch.

DID YOU KNOW

MUSEO Pambata on Roxas Boulevard, Manila (beside the US Embassy) is the first children's interactive museum in the Philippines. It is the brainchild of Nina Lim-Yuson, its current president and chief executive officer, who was inspired by the Boston Children's Museum in the United States, which features hands-on exhibits. She and her mother, former Social Welfare Secretary Estefania Aldaba-Lim, had proposed in March 1993 the establishment of a similar museum to then Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim. In December 1993, the city council allowed the museum the free use of the Elks Building in Manila for 10 years. The Museo Pambata opened the following year.

The museum stands to this day, with the help of various individuals, foundations, corporations and government agencies. Every year, it is visited by about 180,000 children and adults. Admission is free for street children.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

The Carpio and Villaraza fight

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE REPORTS THAT THE INFLUENtial law office of F. Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza, known as "The Firm," had a falling out with President Macapagal-Arroyo, its No. 1 client, are not accurate, according to my highly reliable informant.

My source said that the Villaraza and Angcangco (formerly Carpio Villaraza & Cruz) law firm has not parted ways with the President.

"Mon, Villaraza's statement to the INQUIRER that his law firm remains fiercely loyal to the administration is true," said my little bird in the Supreme Court.

What happened, according to the source, was that Justice Antonio Carpio, Villaraza's former partner, wanted the high tribunal to become independent and so ruled against amending the 1987 Constitution through a so-called people's initiative.

There was a falling out between the former law partners even before the high tribunal ruling on the Charter change, my informant in the Supreme Court said.

Carpio and Villaraza had a shouting match when the latter asked that the high court decide in favor of Executive Order 464, my source alleged. The Malacañang directive, which barred members of the executive branch from answering summonses from Congress, was declared unconstitutional by the high court.

Ever since that altercation between Carpio and Villaraza, the high court has come out with rulings against Malacañang's controversial orders.

That's probably the reason for Carpio's intemperate language when he wrote the *ponencia* on the people's initiative case. He wanted to show Villaraza that nobody, not even his benefactor, could dictate upon him.

Carpio and the other Arroyo appointees in the Supreme Court who voted against people's initiative should be lauded for their independent thinking.

All is not lost in this country because the last bastion of democracy is doing its job.

***

For giving away money like he's scooping water from a bottomless well, Mark Jimenez is now being questioned on the source of his wealth.

His No. 1 nemesis is Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez whose predecessor, Hernando Perez, Jimenez claims fleeced him of $2 million.

Gonzalez wants the former Manila congressman investigated by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) for possible tax evasion. Jimenez was dismissed from the House of Representatives after he was jailed by the United States for an election-related offense and charges of tax evasion in that country.

Jimenez's high-profile generosity has not escaped the attention of the justice secretary who said that he probably had not paid taxes on his then much-publicized purchase deal with the Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT).

Had Jimenez not been a show-off about his wealth—giving away money at the drop of a hat—he would not be in a fix today.

Incidentally, my source said Jimenez doesn't have six police bodyguards as Secretary Gonzalez claimed. He goes around with 17 Army bodyguards, according to my source.

He must be very close to President Macapagal-Arroyo as only she, being the Commander in chief, can assign military bodyguards to civilians.

In which case, the President is again torn between two allies who are at each other's neck.

***

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has filed charges against the British Grand Vision International Inc. for maintaining an illegal casino inside the Clark Economic Zone.

The NBI should also investigate the Clark Development Corp. (CDC), the government agency that runs the former US Air Force Base in Pampanga.

It was the CDC that leased a resort and casino to the foreign firm. My sources in Clark said a CDC official allegedly earned P50 million on the lease contract.

SCHOOL WOES
University students march past Big Ben in central London on Oct. 29. during a demonstration against higher university tuition. REUTERS

Nigeria air crash kills 100 people

ABUJA, NIGERIA—ABOUT 100 PEOPLE, including the spiritual leader of Nigeria's Muslims, were killed on Sunday when a commercial airliner crashed moments after takeoff in the capital Abuja, officials and aviation sources said.

"There were 104 people on board. This figure included six crew members," Sam Adurogboye of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority said. He added that at least three people had survived the crash.

The Sultan of Sokoto, Mohammadu Maccido, who presided over Nigeria's Supeme Council of Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), was among those killed, Sokoto State spokesperson Mustapha Sheu said.

The sultan was the spiritual head of the more than 50 million Muslims in the west African country of some 130 million people. With him died his son, who was a senator, and other officials from Sokoto, Sheu said.

The Boeing 737 passenger jet, owned by the domestic ADC airline, had taken off in the morning from the southern commercial city of Lagos for Sokoto in the north, via the federal capital Abuja, in central Nigeria.

The plane crashed on farmland some 4 km out from Abuja airport and burst into flames, according to aviation officials, who were unable to give any explanation for the disaster. The plane was 23 years old, officials said.

The state-run News Agency of Nigeria said that top-ranking government officials, senators, politicians and the son of Nigeria's former president Shehu Shagari (1979-1983) had been on the ill-fated airliner.

"Information about the crash is still sketchy. We are still trying to get the manifest," said Ngozi Wellington, spokesperson for the airline.

At least three or four people survived the accident, according to officials and NAN reports.

An AFP reporter who visited the scene said security men had cordoned off the crash site and only rescuers and volunteers including Red Cross personnel were allowed into the area.

The bodies of victims had been recovered and evacuated while rescuers were trying to clear the scattered and broken parts of the plane. Smouldering smoke enveloped the site as burnt parts, bits and pieces of the wreckage of the airliner littered the area.

The correspondent saw ambulances and fire-fighting equipment moving in and out to assist in the rescue operation.

"The plane came down when it ran into stormy weather as soon as it took off," said an official of the Federal Airport Authority who did not want to be named.

"We have already started an investigation," the head of Accident Investigation and Prevention Bureau, Asgus Ozoka said. *AFP*

Many fear giving to Muslim charities

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN—BY THE END of Ramadan last year, Najah Bazzy remembers having more than $10,000 in cash donations to distribute to the needy, plus a vast auditorium ringed with tables groaning with enough free food for 400 poor families to celebrate the holiday.

This year, she formalized the good works she has been doing unofficially for a decade among the tens of thousands of Muslims who live in the Dearborn area by establishing a charity, Zaman International. But as the holiday arrived this year, charitable contributions plummeted. Bazzy said cash donations amounted to less than $4,000, and for the first time since she began her charity work she had to use some of the money to purchase food—instead of counting on contributions—to feed needy families.

There are similar stories in Muslim communities across the country. Triggered by the pervasive fear that donations of any manner to an Islamic charity could bring unwanted attention from federal agents looking into potential ties to terrorism, many people within Muslim American communities have become reluctant to donate to Islamic causes, including charities. *NYT*

Britain calls for tighter EU carbon emission limits

LONDON—BRITAIN WANTS TIGHTER LIMITS on greenhouse gases by Europe and other rich countries as a first step toward establishing a global carbon trading system to help reduce the cost of climate change.

The main argument of a British report due to be published on Monday, according to a 27-page summary obtained by Reuters, is that the benefits of determined worldwide steps to tackle global warming will massively outweigh the costs.

But the report's author, former World Bank chief economist Nicholas Stern, concludes that ignoring climate change could lead to economic upheaval on the scale of the 1930s depression.

British Finance minister Gordon Brown will argue at the launch of the report that harnessing the power of markets is the best way to find new methods to curb the output of polluting gases, Treasury officials said.

Sharing a platform with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Stern, Brown will propose a new EU-wide target for emissions reductions of 30 percent by 2020 and 60 percent by 2050 and expansion of the carbon trading scheme to cover more than 50 percent of emissions.

"Stern's report sees climate change as a global challenge that demands a global solution. The truth is we must tackle climate change internationally or we will not tackle it at all," Brown will say. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

US October deaths in Iraq now 100

Baghdad, Iraq—The US military on Monday announced the death of the 100th serviceman killed in Iraq this month. The latest casualty was a Marine assigned to Regimental Combat Team 5, who died from injuries sustained during combat on Sunday, the military said in a brief announcement. The Marine's name was being withheld pending notification of next of kin. October is already the fourth deadliest month for American troops since the war began in March 2003. The previous high monthly death tolls were 107 in January 2005; at least 135 in April 2004, and 137 in November 2004. *AP*

Israeli president urged to step down

Jerusalem—Israeli President Moshe Katsav should step aside from his duties pending a possible rape indictment, the nation's attorney general said Sunday, piling more pressure on the embattled leader to resign. In a nonbinding brief to the supreme court, Menachem Mazuz said that Katsav should suspend himself from his largely ceremonial post as he faces the most serious charges ever leveled at an Israeli national leader. "Given the special position of the head of state, who symbolizes the sovereignty of the state, it is necessary that the president suspend himself during this affair, so that it reflects what public opinion expects from the institution of the presidency," Mazuz said, according to the brief. He also suggested that parliament should use its right to impeach the head of state should he refuse to step aside. *AFP*

KATSAV AP

Pakistan raid kills nearly 80 militants

Khar, Pakistan—Pakistani helicopter gunships Monday destroyed an Islamic school used as an Al-Qaeda-linked training camp near the Afghan border, killing nearly 80 militants, officials and witnesses said. The strike targeting a madrassa near Khar, the main town in Bajaur tribal agency, was the biggest for months in the restive frontier region where many Al-Qaeda and Taliban insurgents have sought sanctuary since 2001. The bodies of 20 people wrapped in sheets were laid on the ground for funeral prayers near the site and locals were still pulling corpses from the rubble and putting them in sacks. Monday's gunship raid also came on the first full day of a visit to Pakistan by Britain's Prince Charles and his wife Camilla, during which he is due to meet Musharraf. Charles is also scheduled to visit a madrassa during his five-day visit as part of an focus on "interfaith harmony." *AFP*

Serbs adopt new constitution

Belgrade—Serbs adopted their first constitution of the post-Milosevic era, clearing the decks for an early general election expected by the end of the year. Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica, who propelled the bill through parliament, said it marked "a new start for Serbia," the republic at the heart of the socialist Yugoslav federation until it was torn apart by war fomented in Belgrade. "This is a historic moment, the beginning of new phase in Serbia's development," said the reformist leader, who took over when strongman Sloboban Milosevic was ousted in 2000. The respected national polling organization Cesid said 51.4 percent of the 6.6 million electorate approved the constitution in a two-day referendum that was saved by a last-minute surge to the polls, pushing turnout over the 50-percent minimum. Kostunica called the turnout more than satisfying. But critics said it highlighted how remote constitutional law was from the bread-and-butter concerns of most people in Serbia, now last in the Balkan queue to join the European Union. *Reuters*

Jailed Suharto son set to be released

Jakarta—The jailed youngest son of former Indonesian president Suharto was due to be freed Monday after serving just a third of a 15-year term for ordering the murder of a judge, a decision likely to infuriate rights activists. Outside Jakarta's maximum-security Cipinang prison, a prison official told a waiting media pack that Hutomo "Tommy" Mandala Putra Suharto would be paroled later in the day. Tommy's release is likely to be seen by activists as proof that favors are still being handed to the Suharto clan, even eight years after the former dictator was forced to step down. It would also come less than a month after Indonesia's Supreme Court overturned the murder conviction of a pilot found guilty of poisoning one of the country's top activists, which led to sharp criticism of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's failure to secure justice in the case. Tommy was found guilty and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in July 2002 for ordering the murder of Judge Syarifuddin Kartasasmita. The judge, shot by gunmen on a motorcycle, had convicted him of corruption and weapons offenses. *AFP*

TOMMY Suharto AFP

HP Bolsters Industry's Most Comprehensive Business Computing Portfolio

MANILA, Philippines, November 02, 2006 - HP recently expanded the industry's broadest portfolio of trustworthy commercial computing products with five new business PCs, a thin client solution and three new monitors which are designed and engineered to simplify business customers' most troublesome IT concerns.

HP's latest suite of products can support the latest Intel® Core™ 2 Duo processors and Intel® vProTM technology to benefit from remarkable energy-saving computing performance, as well as technologies which enhance desktop PC security and manageability.

The new and expanded desk-based products build on HP's unmatched portfolio of price-competitive technology tools and services companies need to conduct their business better. HP's latest solutions offer businesses a competitive edge with breakthrough innovations and technologies to help get the most out of resources and shrinking IT budgets.

"Growing businesses today are plagued by increasing security threats, such as malicious viruses, spyware and identity theft. At the same time, IT managers are driven to improve processes and customer service models," said Joergen Jakobsen, Vice President and General Manager, Commercial Systems Unit, HP Asia Pacific. "HP is working with its partners to deliver on our commercial customers' imperatives of strengthened security, cost reduction and energy-efficient performance."

"Intel® vPro™ technology will change the course in how businesses and IT managers view and use business PCs," said Bertrand Lim, Marketing Manager, Digital Office Platform Marketing, Intel Technology Asia. "Intel® vPro™ technology enables new possibilities in remote manageability and enhanced security, that is supported by a vibrant ecosystem of software providers, to address IT concerns and allow SMBs to focus on what's important - their business."

Smart Technology advances solve business IT issues

HP bolsters its range of business PCs with its latest secure, manageable and reliable desktops - HP Compaq dc7700, dc5700 and dc5750 Desktop PCs to meet the lifecycle, stability and performance needs of almost any business customer. A new flexible warranty scheme is being rolled out with the new business PCs, which allows customers to tailor the warranty duration for the warranty terms of parts/labor/on-site service to meet their specific needs instead of receiving standard warranty terms.

- For demanding business environments requiring maximum stability, and the most advanced technology and performance, the new HP Compaq dc7700 Desktop PC, also available with the Intel® vProTM technology, can help drive down lifecycle costs with enhanced manageability, security and data protection.
- Customers with mainstream computing needs will find the Intel processor-based HP Compaq dc5700 Desktop PC provides a quality business computing foundation with its long, stable lifecycles and exceptional performance.
- High-performance PC users, in businesses of all sizes, who need to keep power requirements to a minimum may choose the HP Compaq dc5750 Desktop PC, featuring standard dual-monitor and RAID capability, along with high-performance graphics for an added productivity boost.

These desktops feature HP ProtectTools security software2 and a standard Trusted Platform Module (TPM) 1.2 embedded security chip, providing enhanced protection for physical assets and data. They also include a wide selection of manageability tools to maximize productivity in a managed IT environment by allowing a more efficient planning, deployment and transition of PCs. All are Microsoft Windows® Vista-compatible3 for future investment protection.

HP also launched the HP Compaq dx7300 Business PC and HP Compaq dx2700 Business PC which are versatile solutions to meet the shorter lifecycle needs of growing businesses, as well as small and medium-sized companies.

- Built on a foundation of proven technology with the latest chipset and processors from Intel, the HP Compaq dx7300 Business PC is highly expandable and upgradeable, and is designed to grow with the customer's business.
- The HP Compaq dx2700 Business PC is a full-featured business-class desktop built to ensure that common business tasks and requirements are fulfilled reliably and dependably.

In addition to the comprehensive enhancement of its suite of Business Desktop PCs, HP announced a new thin client solution - the HP Compaq t5725 Thin Client.

- The HP Compaq t5725 Thin Client is a powerful, Debian Linux-based client that delivers a familiar desktop experience and support for a variety of peripherals and Open Source applications. This client can be used in server-based computing solutions or as a customizable client.

HP announced its entry into "mammoth" screen size territory with a 30-inch diagonal, wide-aspect screen, the HP LP3065 display. The company is also introducing 19- and 20-inch diagonal, Flat-Screened Monitors with expected availability on November 1, 2006.

Consistently reliable, secure business solutions for easier IT management

To simplify and speed up the deployment of HP Compaq dc7700 desktops with the optional Intel® vPro™ technology, HP is offering a new set-up and configuration service which will save IT departments time and cost involved in individually configuring each desktop to take advantage of the benefits of the new technology.

HP also announced enhancements to the following business solutions:

- The latest version of HP OpenView Client Configuration Manager 2.0 offers significant new manageability features across multi-vendor, Windows-based client products, and also supports HP thin clients. The HP OpenView Client Configuration Manager also includes free add-on support for Intel® Active Management Technology, built into PCs with Intel® vPro™ technology. All commercial HP notebooks, desktops and workstations will be shipped with a pre-loaded HP OpenView Configuration Management agent. This expands the company's client management portfolio and helps to reduce the costs associated with managing PCs by eliminating the time spent in deploying agents on machines prior to managing them.
- HP Backup and Recovery Manager helps prevent data loss, and reduce downtime and help desk calls through end-user automatic or manual data backup. This solution consolidates critical data protection features into one simple tool that includes the convenience of allowing business PC users to create their own factory software recovery CDs or DVDs, as well as back up to and recover from secondary or network drives. In addition, the Manager includes writeable optical media.
- HP also has expanded its free HP Client Manager, a centralized hardware management solution to identify and initialize PCs on corporate networks that feature embedded Trusted Platform Module security, for quick and easy deployment of increased data protection across enterprises.

Backed by HP Total Care

HP Total Care encompasses the complete lifecycle of services, tools and options that provide customers a differentiated and better experience with HP. With HP Total Care, customers receive a full circle of personalized services for every stage of the device/computer lifecycle: from choosing it, to configuring it, to protecting it, to tuning it up - all the way to recycling it.

The HP LP3065, L2045w and LP1965 Flat Panel Monitors are priced from US$1,999, US$339 and US$359, respectively and will be available in Asia Pacific from November 2006.

Please contact your local HP representative or HP Approved Channel Partner for specific country pricing. ADVT

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Lula roars back to win vote

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL—OVERCOMING A SERIES OF corruption and political scandals that tarred his image and undermined his credibility, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil won a landslide reelection victory in a runoff vote on Sunday.

With 99 percent of the vote counted, da Silva, a former factory worker and labor union leader running as the candidate of the left-wing Workers Party, had 60.8 percent of the vote. The percentage of the vote going to his opponent, Geraldo Alckmin of the center-left Brazilian Social Democratic Party, dropped in comparison with the 41.6 percent he won in the first round of balloting on Oct. 1, when da Silva fell just short of the majority he needed to win outright.

"This is an extraordinary result, one that gives him a legitimacy that all the accusations had perhaps broken," said Jairo Nicolau, a television commentator and political science professor at the Candido Mendes University here, referring to da Silva.

Wearing a T-shirt that proclaimed "The victory is Brazil's," da Silva spoke to supporters at a hotel in Sao Paulo on Sunday night, saying that "Brazil is living a magical moment" and expressing his gratitude to voters for their faith in him. "The people knew how to distinguish between what was true and what wasn't," he said, before adding that he had "learned a lot" in power and promising to make a greater effort to combat corruption.

Da Silva took office in January 2003, promising a new era of social justice and clean government in this nation of 185 million people, the world's fourth-largest democracy. But his luster began to fade a year later, when an aide was caught on film soliciting campaign donations from numbers-game kingpins here.

Then, in May of last year, a much larger scandal erupted. Though it was initially limited to corruption in government contracts, investigations by congressional committees and the news media soon established the existence of an illegal multimillion-dollar slush fund used to finance da Silva's 2002 campaign, and to pay off legislators from small political parties to support his government. *NYT*

A SUPPORTER of Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva wears a flag bearing Lula's image at a celebration rally for his reelection victory in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Oct. 29. AP

Brazil's first working-class president

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—WHETHER ESCAPING from rural poverty with his family on the back of a truck or leading auto workers in huge strikes against a military dictatorship, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has shown a stubborn resolve.

Two years ago, a corruption scandal nearly sank his presidency and, one month ago, his main rival forced him into a second-round election that had doubters wondering if he had lost his touch.

But on Sunday, Brazil's first working-class president celebrated a victory that keeps him in the presidential palace for another four years.

The charismatic leader defeated a feisty rival who tried but failed to capitalize on corruption allegations that plagued his government. Lula shored up votes by combining social-welfare programs for the very poor with conservative economic policies that please investors.

Lula, 61, has lived a life that reads like a Horatio Alger dime novel. As a politician, he mixes governing with tales of personal hardship in a folksy style that resonates with ordinary Brazilians. In a country long dominated by a tiny elite, critics say he arrogantly portrays himself as a savior—the only person with the moral conviction to end poverty.

Hunger pangs

In his first year in office, he wept publicly recalling hunger pangs he felt as a boy, memories he invoked to launch a food assistance program in the world's fifth-largest country.

Born to a penniless, semi-literate family in Brazil's wretched northeastern desert, Lula moved as a boy to Sao Paulo state, the country's industrial hub, to look for work.

He rode 13 days across the country in the back of a flatbed truck with his mother and siblings before arriving in Sao Paulo. After completing elementary school, he started working in a dry cleaning shop. By 14, he was working in a screw factory and attending vocational school to become a lathe operator.

During one graveyard shift, a stamping machine sliced off his left pinky. In 1967, frustrated by poor working conditions and a recession that left Lula jobless, his brother, a Catholic priest and Communist, took him to a union hall.

Two years later, around the time his first wife and baby died during labor, he was elected to the union leadership, the first in a series of important posts he held in Sao Bernardo do Campo, the birthplace of Brazil's automobile industry.

At union workshops in the United States and Europe, he learned organizing tactics and leftist social theory—the most sophisticated education he received.

As a fiery union leader, he led protests against the 1964-1985 dictatorship and was briefly jailed. Soon after, he founded the Workers' Party, or PT, turning it into the most potent left-wing political force in Latin America.

$2 a day

Since the late 1970s, Lula has been at the forefront of the fight to improve the lot of average Brazilians, almost a third of whom live on less than $2 a day.

In his fourth bid for the presidency in 2002, Lula won in a landslide after tempering his once incendiary rhetoric, trimming his unruly beard and donning suits and ties.

In office, Lula positioned himself as a pragmatist and put ideology aside. He counts both US President George W. Bush and Venezueia's Hugo Chavez as friends.

He adopted conservative fiscal and monetary policies that won widespread praise on Wall Street and put the country on sounder economic footing, but angered traditional allies. Trade unions and leftists complain he has drifted too far right.

Before corruption scandals tainted his government, he was cited as a potential candidate for the Nobel Peace prize.

The scandals, which included allegations his Workers' Party bought votes in Congress and improperly financed campaigns, hurt the moral authority of a candidate long seen as a champion of ethics. Lula said he was unaware of the alleged wrongdoing. *Reuters*

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Federer captures 11th title for '06/A23

SPORTS

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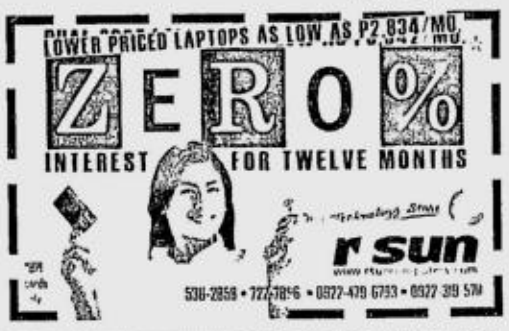
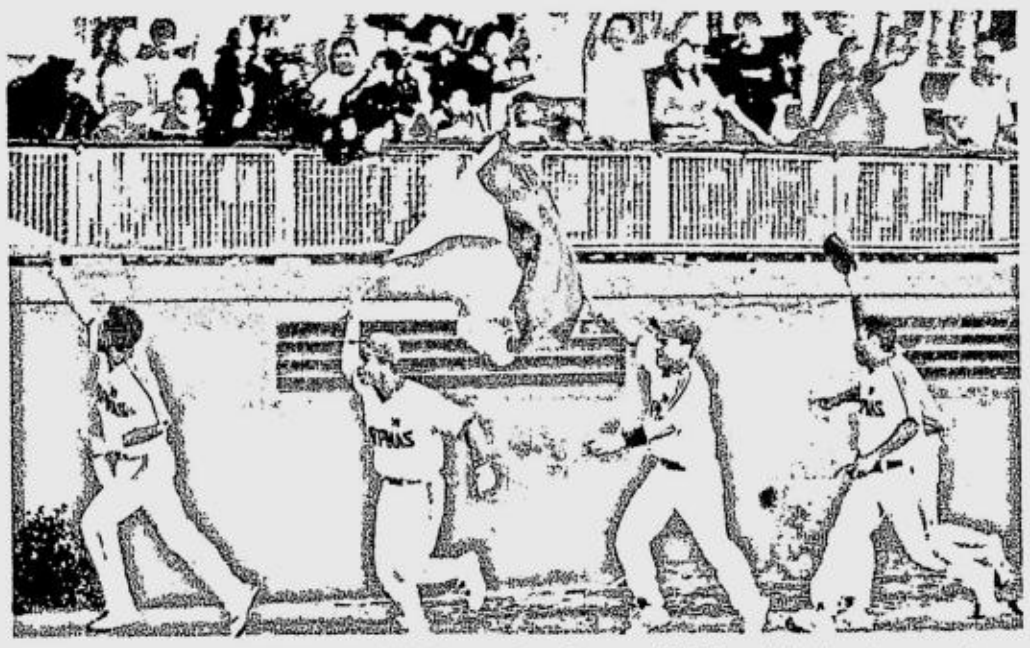


Baseball going to Doha after all



A WALK, NOT A STRIKEOUT: The SEA Games champion squad is RP's only bet in a team sport.

Team raises P1.5M at last minute

By June Navarro

PHILIPPINE BASEBALL HAS escaped the ignominy of being scratched out of the 15th Asian Games.

Deputy Chef de Mission Richie Garcia said yesterday the Philippine Amateur Baseball Association (Paba) was able to beat the final deadline by coming up with the funding for the Asiad stint of the national clouters.

While the amount raised was still P500,000 short of the P2 million budget, Garcia gave the go-signal for the Asiad stint of the 22-man baseball team after Paba president Hector Navasero proposed a concrete plan to defray the expenses.

With P300,000 from his own pocket, Navasero got another P300,000 from the Philippine Olympic Committee through POC chair Robert Aventajado. He was assured of P600,000 more by the Philippine Sports Commission.

The PSC doleout was part of its commitment to reimburse the P600,000 Navasero spent for a baseball tournament last year.

Garcia said Navasero also promised to issue a post-dated check for P500,000 before Nov. 16, when the advance party of the Philippine delegation flies to Doha.

"He's willing to issue a post-dated check and we'll accept it in good faith," said Garcia. "With this development, we'll try to be lenient and give them all the chances."

The P2 million budget for baseball will be spent for airfare, uniforms and allowances of the athletes and coaches.

Meanwhile, the Doha Asian Games Organizing Committee has already granted accreditation cards to majority of the 351-man Philippine delegation which will represent the country in the Asiad.

Moying Martelino, the RP secretariat documentation chief, said that 80 percent of the accreditation cards was dispatched by the Dagoc over the weekend while the rest would be sent through e-mail.

The accreditation cards are intended for the athletes, coaches, top officials from the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission, national sports association officials and some members of the media.

Ginebra Kings acquire tireless Tubid for a song

By Musong Castillo

TUBID: Instant energy

BARANGAY GINEBRA added another key piece to its ultra-talented team yesterday after getting Ronald Tubid from Air21 while giving up very little in return.

Team manager Allan Caidic confirmed the acquisition of Tubid after a deal which require the Gin Kings to surrender their draft rights to the Express in the next three years.

A former UE Warrior in the UAAP, Tubid is an "Energizer Bunny" type of a swingman, who the Kings feel is missing in their drive to win the Talk 'N Text PBA Philippine Cup.

"Our team is more balanced now," Caidic told the Inquirer over the phone. "His arrival has stabilized our backcourt and has given the coaching staff more options and flexibility."

The deal, approved by the Commissioner's Office yesterday, was the second entered into by both teams in less than four months.

Air21 was the "middle team" for Coca-Cola and Ginebra in the blockbuster deal that brought Rafi Reavis, Billy Mamaril and Rudy Hatfield to the Kings before the start of the season.

Ginebra is running second behind Sta. Lucia in the Philippine Cup eliminations with a 5-2 card, while Air21 has lost five of its first seven games despite being the tournament's best running team.

"*Nakakalungkot* (it saddens me)," Air21 coach Bo Perasol said of the development. "Instant energy is what Ronald (Tubid) gives us and that's what he will give Ginebra."

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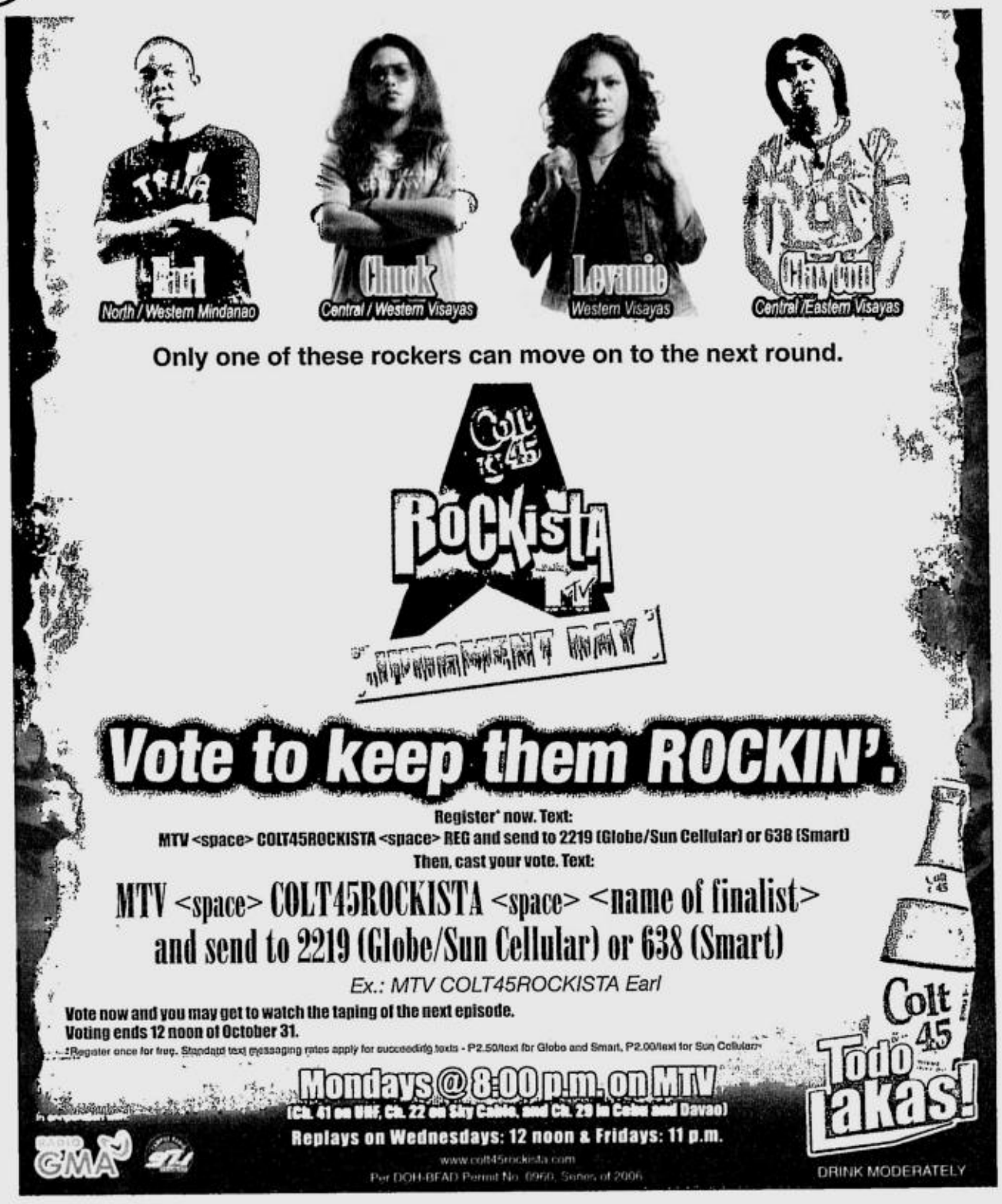

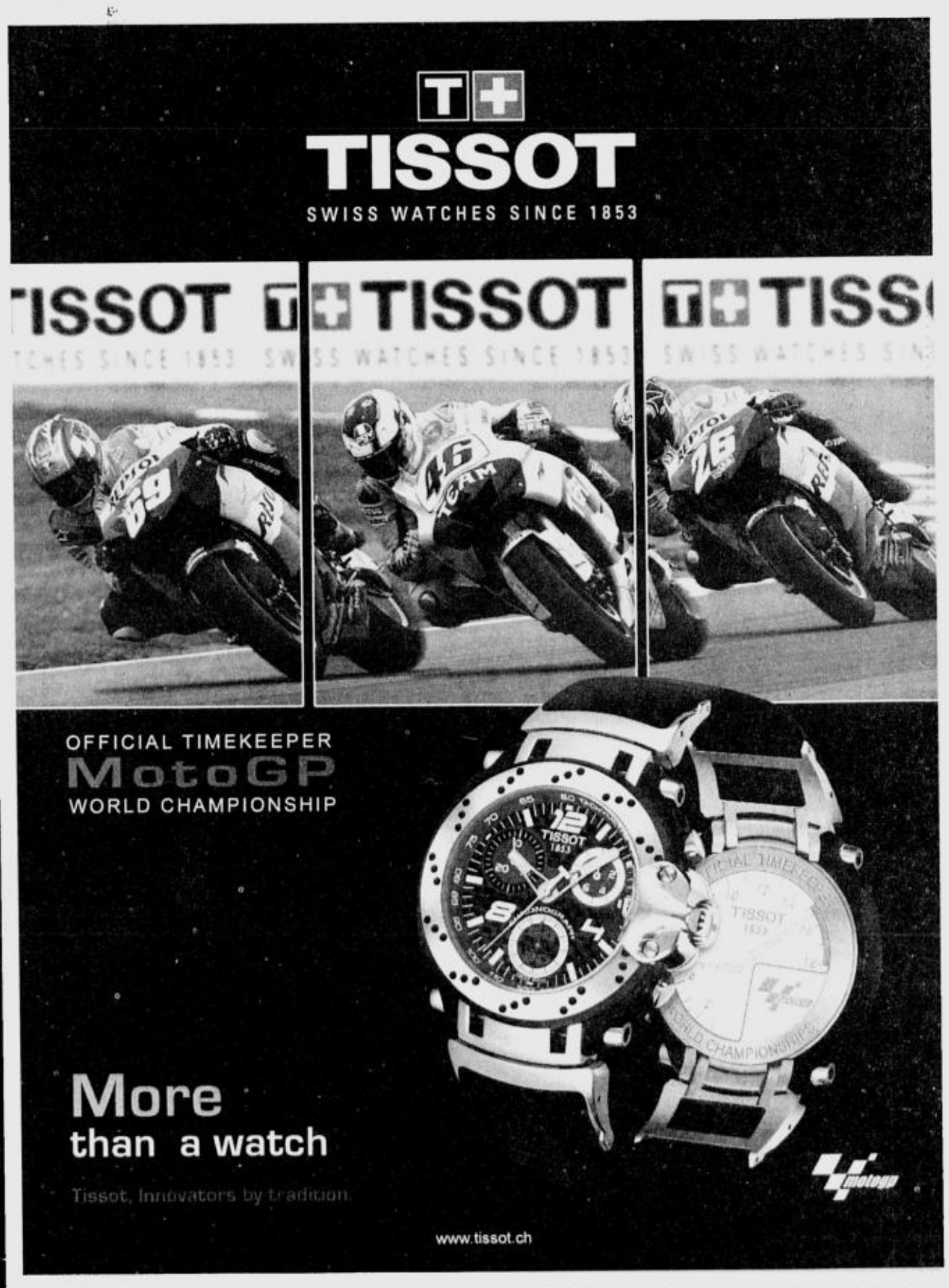

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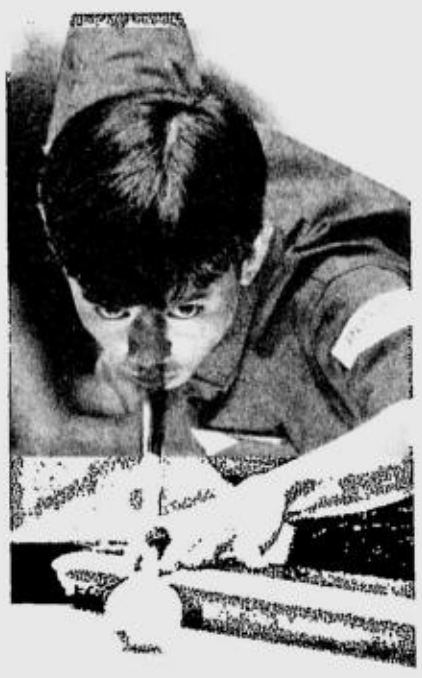
Villanueva, Corteza capture WPC berths

FILIPINOS EDUARDO VILLANUEVA and Lee Van Corteza topped their respective qualification brackets late Sunday, raising to 16 the country's bets to the 2006 Philippines World Pool Championship slated Nov. 4-13 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Villanueva downed Hasish Kusano of Japan, 9-2, to rule Qualifier 3 while Corteza, a gold medalist in the last Southeast Asian Games, outclassed American Max Eberle, 9-2, to prevail in Qualifier 4 at the Star Billiards Center in Quezon City.

The 1997 and 1998 Gold Eagle Beer Philippine Open champion, Villanueva is also known for placing second to Filipino pool legend Jose "Amang" Parica in the 1993 international tournament staged in Manila at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.



CORTEZA: Joins 15 other Filipinos in the main draw of the World Pool.

Impressive victories

On his way to the finals, Villanueva recorded impressive victories over Jussi Niemela of Finland (7-2), Kohei Inoue (7-1), Rodrigo Geronimo (7-3), Victor Arpilleda (7-2), and Imran Ibrahim of Indonesia (7-4).

Corteza, who hails from Davao City, also won six matches like Villanueva counting his earlier victories over Mishal Al Kandari (7-3), Daniel Chua (7-1), Yusoke Kuroda (7-3), Chien Chin-Ju (7-3), and Pan Shen-Ping (7-2).

Villanueva and Corteza, who won P45,000 each, advanced behind compatriot Roberto Gomez, who topped the first two qualifying sessions along with Chinese Taipei's Nien Rong-chih Saturday.

A total of 116 players, divided into two 58-man groups, took part in Sunday's qualifiers.

More foreign players

Action in Qualifier 5 and 6 started yesterday with the field likely to reach 64 players for each group with the arrival of more foreign players.

Still looking for qualifying spots are top locals Antonio Lining, Warren Kiamco, Leonardo Andam, Leonardo Didal, Mike Takayama, and Renemar David.

They are allowed to join three more events in the qualifiers.

The qualifying tournaments will end on Wednesday.

The tournament proper, which offers $100,000 to the champion, starts this Saturday and will last nine days.

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

ERWIN Evangelista will have to wait, though, until after officials of the Guinness Book of World Records have validated his dribbling feat.

1 for books: Manilan sets world record for dribbling

A 21-YEAR-OLD FROM MANILA unofficially set a new world record yesterday by dribbling a basketball for 45 hours and 22 minutes.

Erwin Evangelista surpassed the 26 hours and 40 minutes entered in the Guinness Book of World Records by African-American Joseph Odhiambo.

While Alex Panlilio, AVP for Consumer Health of United Laboratories (Unilab) described Evangelista's feat as exciting, he said it was not all that surprising.

"When our Revicon Forte team was planning the event, we were optimistic that a Filipino was going to break the Guinness World Record for the longest dribbling period," Panlilio said.

Evangelista was among the 100 young men aged 18 and above who were finalists in the Astic Revicon: Guinness Dribbling Challenge.

The 100 young men started dribbling at 4 p.m. Saturday. By 6:40 p.m. the next day, the longest dribbling period was unofficially matched with 55 entries still dribbling.

DUREMDES: Player of the week

Duremdes back to his old, fighting form

A GRIZZLED VETERAN NEEDS LITTLE PROMPTING to showcase his prowess and this is especially true in the case of Kenneth Duremdes.

Given up for a has-been even before the start of the Talk N' Text-PBA Philippine Cup, the 1998 MVP has exploded his way back into public consciousness, at the same time helping boost Sta. Lucia Realty to two wins last week and into the top of the field.

The recent exploits of the 32-year-old guard-forward fondly called as "Captain Marbel" have earned him the PBA Press Corps' Accel-Player of the Week honors for the period Oct. 23-29.

Duremdes said his turnaround was due to the trust given him by the Realtors' coaching staff and his teammates.

In a 102-90 Sta. Lucia win over Talk 'N Text last Saturday at the University of the Assumption in San Fernando, Pampanga, Duremdes had 17 points on 6-of-12 shooting on top of three rebounds in 29 minutes.

He was more explosive in the Realtors' 105-83 victory over Red Bull last Wednesday. He had 20 points on 7-of-12 shooting, including 5-of-7 from beyond the arc, and also had five rebounds, three assists and a block in just 23 minutes.

Like Duremdes, Sta. Lucia was also not given much of a chance before the season began. Things are a lot different now.

With their 5-1 win-loss slate, the eighth-seeded Realtors are off to their best-ever start in an All-Filipino tournament and look firmly on track for an automatic semifinal berth.

SPORTSWATCH

Toribio Cup high school volley set

TWENTY-FOUR SCHOOLS—12 EACH IN THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' DIVISIONS—are vying in the sixth Francisco C. Toribio Volleyball Cup secondary division which starts this Saturday at the University of the East Gym 5. Entered in the boys' division are host UE, University of Santo Tomas, Lourdes School-Mandaluyong, Claret School, School of Saint Anthony-Lagro, Holy Trinity Academy, Imus Institute, De La Salle-Lipa, Hope Christian School, San Sebastian College, Letran and Dillman Preparatory School. Competing in the girls' side are UE, UP IS, San Antonio De Padua College, Philippine Institute of Quezon City, Holy Trinity, Imus Institute, Hope Christian High School, Valenzuela National High, San Beda- Taytay, Batasan National High and St. Anthony-Lagro. The tournament is being held in honor of the now retired and former UE mentor, Francisco C. Toribio, the winningest volleyball coach in the UAAP.

Las Piñas 'Battle of Champs' Thursday

BIG-TIME COCKFIGHTING RETURNS TO THE LAS PIÑAS COLISEUM ON Thursday via the "Battle of Champions" 5-stag derby. Entries must be submitted tomorrow from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 873-1040 or 874-3910. Gerry Ramos, fresh off his victory in the GCAP Stagfighter of the Year race, will host the event. Entry fee is P55,000. An interesting matchup of cockers from different groups like the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP), Pinoy Cockers Asociation of the Philippines (PCAP), Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA), National Cockers Association (NCA) and Luzon Gamefowl Breeders Association (LGBA) will highlight the event.

4-stag derby slated at SJ Coliseum

THE MUCH-AWAITED "UBUSAN NG LAHI 4-STAG DERBY" SIZZLES AT THE San Juan Coliseum on Thursday with veteran promoter Bobbit Ples as host and Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. The first of more than 100 fights will start at 3 p.m. Entries must be presented tomorrow at the SJC office from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 725-5665. Meanwhile, the SJC Christmas Rambulan 6-Cock Derby, slated Dec. 16, 18 and 20, offers a guaranteed prize of P2 million for an entry fee of P15,000.

New hackfight formats at Roligon

NEW SCHEDULES AND FORMATS FOR HACKFIGHTS WILL BE IMPLEmented at Roligon Mega Cockpit starting this week. Ronnie Lacsina, Ben Nadurata and Jerry Ang, recently appointed as new promoters, will handle special hackfights at Roligon every Friday and Sunday, beginning Nov. 5. Slated this Sunday is the "Pabilisan One-Cock Ulutan" which offers P2,500 to the fastest-win champion every two fights from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Every Friday, starting Nov. 10, the "No Entry Fee Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" will be held. The following prizes are at stake: P20,000 (8 seconds and below); P15,000 (9 to 10 seconds); P8,000 (11 to 12 seconds) and P5,000 (13 to 15 seconds).

Cycling classic boosts anti-drug movement

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE winners led by Reynaldo Navarro and the organizers of last Sunday's Victorey Tour de Tercero Cyling Classic which featured Pangasinan's top professional and amateur bikers in a 168-kilometer race around the six towns and city of San Carlos in the province's third district.

I would also like to apologize to retired police general Reynaldo Velasco and former Tour of the Philippines champion Jesus Garcia Jr. for not being able to attend their recent press conference at the Manila Hotel. It was held at about the same time that my family and I were marking the first death anniversary of my son, Joaquin "Jackie" Iñigo.

Aimed at regaining Pangasinan's supremacy in cycling, the "Victorey Tour" was also held to promote the anti-drug movement of Kapanalig (Kabataang Panlalawigan Laban sa Ipinagbabawal Na Gamot) headed by Velasco, a native son of Sta. Barbara.

Velasco said he readily accepted to support the "Victorey Tour" because race director Garcia has been an acquaintance way back when he was still serving as aide de camp to then PC-INP Chief Fidel V. Ramos whose office was always a major supporter of Pangasinan cyclists like Jess Garcia.

"We want to create more opportunities for our local boys so they can further improve their riding skills. At the same time, they can also be our partners in the anti-drug campaign as they are good role models who practice self-discipline and healthy living," said Velasco.

For his part, Garcia lauded the entry of San Miguel Corp., Coca-Cola Bottlers, Ginebra San Miguel and Mr. D Park as major sponsors and cited the support of the former three-star general, who has been a staunch anti-drug crusader.

Unknown to many, Velasco, with the support of the police Community Relations Group headed by Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, has already conducted more than 10 anti-drug seminars under the auspices of Kapanalig among 500 youth leaders in the towns of Sta. Barbara, Calasiao, Lingayen, Mangaldan, Bayambang, Malasiqui, San Fabian, Basista, Mapandan and the cities of San Carlos and Dagupan.

Past Kapanalig seminars were also conducted in Negros, Batangas and Bulacan, with Velasco's former aide, Senior Supt. Rodolfo Sebastian, and Cora Santiago as implementor and trainer/facilitator, respectively.

As National Capital Region Police Office director from August 2002 to June 2003, Velasco dismantled five shabu laboratories in Metro Manila where he recovered P4.2 billion worth of illegal drugs.

* * *

Former Olympic great Teofilo Yldefonso will be remembered by his townmates in Piddig, Ilocos Norte, this Saturday, which the Piddig Sangguniang Bayan has declared as "Teofilo Yldefonso Day," a special holiday.

Piddig Mayor Augustus Salazar and Vice Mayor Modesto Clemente will lead the celebration, together with Yldefonso's surviving siblings and former POC president and Gintong Alay executive director Michael Keon.

Yldefonso was the fabled swimmer who became the first Filipino athlete to win an Olympic medal—a bronze—and the only back-to-back Filipino medal winner in the Olympics. He first won the bronze in the 200-meter breaststroke at the 1928 Games in Amsterdam and repeated at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. He was, for many years, the most dominant swimmer of the Far Eastern Games in the mid-1920s.

Born on Nov. 4, 1903, Yldefonso was also a great soldier who served as a Philippine Scout during World War II. He died on June 19, 1942 at the height of the Pacific War. Teofilo was the second of three sons of Felipe Yldefonso and Aniceta dela Cruz. The eldest brother was Vicente while the youngest was Teodoro, also a national swimmer. Teofilo married Manuela Ella with whom he had six children: Porfirio, Emilio, Felipe, Norma, Herminia and Carmelito.

FR. MARTIN CUP WINNER: Members of the victorious De La Salle Zobel juniors basketball team pose with their trophy after beating San Beda in the championship match of the Father Martin Cup. In the front row (from left) are D. Webb, J. Fortuna, M. Hizon, R. Yap and N. Elorde. Standing (same order) are assistant coaches W. Capitan and R. Magsumbol and players J. Cruz, M. Escalante, M. Rodriguez, C. Buckley, M. Okubo, M. Pardo, PT Arden and heach coach B. Aldeguer.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Take A Strike (3), King Yoji (6), Stout Hearted (1), My Rabonnie (7), Yao Man (8)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Revelation (6), American Idol (2), Lady Cathy (1), Half Medium (5)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Showtime Lady (7), Speed Bullet (5), Euphoria (1), Silent Operator (6)
Race 4—(Quartet/Tri)—Modern Classic (3), Lovely Tara (6), Papillon (1), Daddy's Girl (4)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Kumpirmado (1), Spinning Bullet (5), Mountain Eagle (10), Red Bells (11), El Love Señora (12)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Triple Threat (5), Queen Banana (7), King Foppy (6), Camberwell Beauty (4)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Worth Ur While (11), Red Hot Water (7), Dona Celay (5), Mesmerize (8), Hok Kee Hok (1)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Top Quest (8), Dancing Slew (14), Kawiliwili (5), Real Material (12), Prophet (4), Ikaw Pag-Asa Ko (1)

Antonio zaps Paragua as Tagaytay ties Agusan

JOEY ANTONIO BROUGHT DOWN fellow Grandmaster Mark Paragua as defending champion Tagaytay City held Agusan del Sur A to a 2-2 draw in the sixth round of the 2006 National Inter-Provincial Chess Team Championship Monday at the Limketkai Mall in Cagayan de Oro.

Antonio, the country's top scorer in this years Turin World Chess Olympiad, prevailed with the white pieces in 33 moves of a Sicilian.

The win came after Antonio topped the side last Sunday with an impressive 8.5 out of nine points.

Edmundo Gatus and Truman Hernaez split the point with Samson Lim and Rainer Labay on board 2 and 3, respectively, while Agusan del Sur A board 4 player Christian Arroyo beat Allan Macala to secure the draw.

Agusan del Sur A still held on to a share of the lead with Tandag Chess Circle and Rizal with 5.0 points in the nine round Swiss-system match point tournament which offers P200,000 to the winning team.

Tied for fourth to sixth place were Tagaytay City, Davao Chadric Builders and Tagoloan with 4.5 points apiece in the tournament hosted and sponsored by Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno.

Tagaytay City will be pitted against Tagoloan in the seventh round while Agusan del Sur A will collide with Tandag Chess Circle.

Tagoloan, bannered by IM Barlo Nadera, also drew with Caloocan, 2-2, while Tandag edged Zambales, 2.5-1.5, as IM Richard Bitoon drew with GM Nelson Mariano on board 1.

Marlon Bernardino

MAYOL: WBC No. 3

Mayol set to sign up with Top Rank

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

WORLD BOXING COUNCIL NO. 3 strawweight Rodel Mayol is poised to sign up with promoter Bob Arum's Top Rank, as the Filipino bids to get higher-profile fights in the United States.

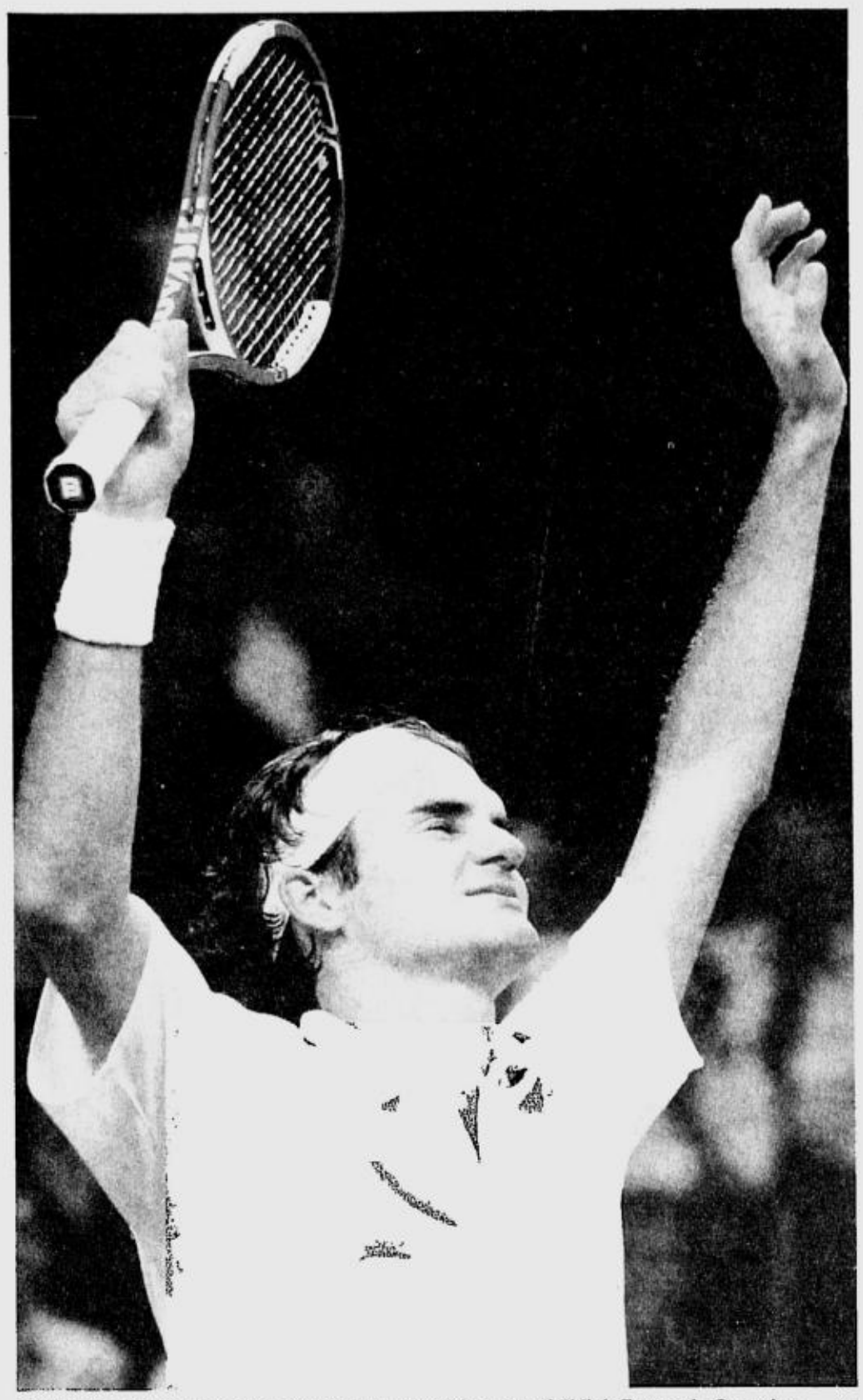
In an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, Mayol said he has received a copy of the promotional contract from Arum. The copy was sent to him by his Japanese manager Yasuo Matsuoka.

Mayol (23-1, 18 KOs) did not divulge the specifics of the contract, although he said that it was "fair."

The hard-hitting Mayol, however, was clearly salivating at the prospect of fighting WBC light-flyweight champ Omar Nino of Mexico, WBA 108-lb champ Koki Kameda of Japan or the feather-fisted WBO minimumweight champ Ivan Calderon.

Mayol, who was earlier tapped to see action underneath the Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales rubber match but declined due to time constraints, is in the country spending time with his family.

He is fresh off an impressive showing in Japan where he stopped local hope Masatsugu Okada in the first round last month.



ROGER Federer underscores his mighty reign with a rout of Chile's Fernando Gonzalez. AFP

Federer captures 11th title for '06

King Roger marks 1,000 days as No. 1

BASEL, SWITZERLAND—ROGER FEDERER HAS been the world's top-ranked player for 1,000 days.

The way he's playing now, he could easily stay that way for another thousand.

"I'm really happy with my game," Federer said Sunday after trouncing Fernando Gonzalez, 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (3), to win the Swiss Indoors, his fourth title in a row and 11th of the year.

Federer first took over the top ranking on Feb. 2, 2004, exactly 1,000 days ago, and the Swiss has won 24 straight matches, losing only one set in his last 12.

"It is indeed magnificent," he said of winning the tournament where he once worked as a ball boy.

And there is no other adjective to describe Federer's play as he closes in on a number of records.

Federer, who had failed to win his hometown tournament in six previous attempts, already has become the first player in the Open era to win 10 titles for three straight years. Monday will mark his 143rd straight week atop the ATP rankings, a streak bettered only by Ivan Lendl (157) and Jimmy Connors (160).

That record looks likely to fall next year, when he also could overtake some of tennis' greats on the all-time win list. Sunday's victory was the 44th title of his career, tying him for 11th in ATP tour history with Thomas Muster.

The question is not whether, but how soon, he will catch Rod Laver (47) and Boris Becker (49).

"It's a great situation I'm in right now," Federer said. "It's so easy to stay motivated. I feel like every time I enter an event it's because I want to play."

Federer improved to 87-5 this season. Over the last three years, during which he has won eight of the 12 Grand Slams, he has amassed a 242-15 record.

Federer said he would decide Monday if he'll compete in next week's Paris Masters. If he skips that event, he would not play until next month's Masters Cup in Shanghai—a scenario many of the top contenders are probably hoping for.

"He's one of the best players in history," Gonzalez said after the straight-set loss to Federer, his second in as many weeks. "It's really good for the game; not really good for us."

Despite the lopsided score, the Chilean entered Sunday's final having won 24 of 30 matches and reached three straight finals, boosting him to a career-high ranking of seventh.

Federer has beaten Gonzalez all nine times they have played, including at last week's Madrid Masters final.

"I'm playing really good tennis right now," he said. "Today I was really unlucky to play Roger. He's winning every week."

On Sunday, Federer simply overpowered Gonzalez, hitting 14 aces and breaking the defending champion's serve three times.

When Gonzalez finally got his first break-point opportunity in the third set, he threw his racket in despair as Federer coolly put away a volley. Gonzalez then returned long when given a second chance. *AP*

Maria grabs 5th win

SHARAPOVA

LINZ, AUSTRIA—MARIA SHARAPOVA WON HER fifth title of the season Sunday, beating defending champion Nadia Petrova, 7-5, 6-2, in the Generali Ladies final and advancing to No. 2 in the rankings.

Sharapova has won 16 straight matches and has not lost since before the start of her successful run to the US Open title.

The top-seeded Russian overtook Justine Henin-Hardenne in the rankings and now trails only Amelie Mauresmo. Sharapova needs to win the season-ending WTA Championship in Madrid to finish on top.

"It is my dream to end the year on the No. 1 spot again," Sharapova said.

Petrova, seeded second, won her first career title in Linz last year. *AP*

Victory double an Asian golf milestone

KUALA LUMPUR—A DOUBLE TRIumph by Asian golfers on the European and US PGA Tours over the weekend was hailed Monday as a significant milestone for the game in the region.

India's Jeev Milkha Singh held off heavyweights Luke Donald, Padraig Harrington and Sergio Garcia to win the Volvo Masters in Spain by one stroke for only the third victory ever by an Asian in Europe.

On the other side of the Atlantic, South Korea's KJ Choi was too good for the likes of Ernie Els as he swung his way to a four-shot victory at the Chrysler Championship to post his fourth career US win.

It is the first time that Asians have won on the same weekend on two of the world's leading circuits and Asian Tour chair Kyi Hla Han said the feats reinforced the belief that Asian golf is making giant strides.

"The wonderful performances by Jeev and Choi over the weekend reflect positively on the Asian Tour and the growing standard of play amongst our players," he said.

Inspiration for Asians

"Their triumphs will inspire Asians to aim for higher goals, including winning the majors."

Over the past few years a number of Asian golfers have won European Tour co-sanctioned events in Asia but doing it on European soil has been a rare occurrence—only Choi and Taiwan's Lu Liang-huan have managed it before.

"I have no doubt that Choi and Jeev's success will pave the way for more Asians to make their mark on the world stage," added Han.

Singh's win was the biggest of his career and he believes he can do it again.

"It's the biggest victory of my career so far. I think this is going to stay with me for the rest of my life," said Singh, whose triumph was overshadowed somewhat by Harrington clinching the European Order of Merit title.

"It's going to give me more confidence and hopefully I can move on from here to even bigger tournaments."

Best-known golf export

Choi is Asia's best-known golfing export and his success at the weekend ensured a top-30 finish on the US PGA Tour money list which comes with an invitation to the US Masters next April.

Han believes the Korean, who cut his teeth on the Asian Tour, will savor another return to Augusta National Golf Club, where he finished third in 2004.

"He's shown a great liking for the Masters and we have every reason to believe that Choi can go on to lift a major title in the very near future," said Han. *AFP*

JEEV Milkha Singh foils Garcia, two others. AFP

Hot Colts, Bears still unscathed

LOS ANGELES—ADAM VINATIERI snapped a 31-31 tie with a game-winning 37-yard field goal with two seconds left to lift Indianapolis Colts to a 34-31 win over the Denver Broncos on Sunday.

"It was a heck of a day for football," said Colts quarterback Peyton Manning who connected for three second-half touchdowns and a two-point conversion with receiver Reggie Wayne.

The Colts (7-0) became just the second team in NFL history to start a season with seven wins in consecutive years. They were 13-0 last season before losing to San Diego.

The Green Bay Packers were at least 7-0 three years in a row from 1929-31.

In other key matchups Sunday, Ben Roethlisberger was intercepted four times as the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh lost to Oakland, 20-13, and Chicago took advantage of turnovers and rolled to a 41-10 win over the San Francisco to remain undefeated.

Denver (5-2) had won five in a row since a season-opening loss at St. Louis. The Broncos are now tied with San Diego for first place in the AFC West.

Broncos coach Mike Shanahan did not have to get past the Colts en route to the AFC championship game last season. He may not be as lucky this time around.

Other results: Packers 31 Cardinals 14; Ravens 35 Saints 22; Titans 28 Texans 22; Jaguars 13 Eagles 6; Chiefs 35 Seahawks 28; Giants 17 Buccaneers 3; Chargers 38 Rams 24; Browns 20 Jets 13; Cowboys 35 Panthers 14. *AFP*

AF3 STREET DRIVE
Racing enthusiasts mill around a Formula Three car on display at the music hall of the SM Mall of Asia during the recent AF3 Street Drive. The event is one of the highlights of a hectic grind culminating in the last four rounds of the 2006 racing season slated Nov. 4 and 5 at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Choi thwarts Goydos; Els rescues TC stint

PALM HARBOR, FLORIDA—KJ Choi eagled his opening hole and went on to an easy four-shot victory on Sunday in the Chrysler Championship.

Choi hit a 3-wood into 20 feet at No. 1, staking him to a big lead he never surrendered at Innisbrook. He closed with a 4-under 67 to beat Paul Goydos and Brett Wetterich by four strokes, making him eligible for the next two tournaments—the Tour Championship next week, and the winners-only Mercedes-Benz Championship to start next year.

Others also enjoyed the day, including Ernie Els, who looked in danger of falling out of the top 30 on the order of merit and missing the Tour Championship. But he saved par from the bunker on the 17th and 18th.

Had he made bogey, he would have finished 31st on the money list by $852.

Goydos completed his best four rounds of the year, finishing with a 70 that left him tied for second, earning him $466,400 and avoiding a return to qualifying school.

Choi finished at 271 and won the Chrysler Championship for the second time in five years.

Mark Calcavecchia moved into the top 125, and while he was exempt next year because of his Canadian Open win, this puts him into The Players Championship. *AP*

Harrington tops Euro Order of Merit

SOTOGRANDE, SPAIN—FOR ONE TIME IN PADRAIG HARRINGTON'S CAREER, finishing second wasn't such a bad thing. Harrington overtook Paul Casey to capture the European golf tour's Order of Merit crown after finishing tied for second with Luke Donald and Sergio Garcia at the Volvo Masters on Sunday. "As I've always said, sometimes it's very good to finish second," Harrington said of his 30th career runner-up finish. Harrington trailed Casey by $274,080 in the race for the Harry Vardon trophy going into the season finale. With Casey (69) tied for 21st, Harrington could finish no worse than second. Harrington finished second in the tournament to India's Jeev Milkha Singh. *AP*

Olympic Council of Asia downplays bed crisis

SINGAPORE—THE OLYMPIC COUNCIL OF Asia has moved to downplay concerns that there won't be enough beds for athletes and officials at the Asian Games in Doha, assuring them there is nothing to worry about.

OCA secretary general Raja Randhir Singh expressed confidence in the organizing committee to resolve any problems after the number of participants from the 45 countries and territories taking part soared to 13,500.

The $500-million athletes' village in the Qatari capital was built for just 10,000 and sporting powerhouse Japan has been told it will only be provided with 693 beds for its 811-strong delegation.

It prompted the Japanese Olympic Committee to file an official protest last week about the "improper organization." Singh was quoted on the Doha Asian Games website as saying everything would be sorted out.

"All athletes and officials whose names have been forwarded by the respective National Olympic Committees will be accommodated at the Asian Games Village and there is no cause for concern in this regard," said Singh.

The Asian Games is the world's biggest multi-sport event after the Summer Olympics and the capital of the energy-rich Gulf state has seen a major makeover ahead of the competition on Dec. 1-15.

Singh lavished praise on the organizers of what will be the largest sporting spectacle the Middle East has ever seen.

"All of the venues will comfortably be ready ahead of time, the vast majority are already finished, and the athletes' village and media facilities will be the best ever to grace an Asian Games," he said.

At the last Asian Games in Busan, China topped the gold medal tally at 150, followed by host South Korea with 96 and Japan with 44. *AFP*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Trade and Industry
Department of Finance

JOINT DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 02
Series of 2006

SUBJECT : GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTING R.A. 8792 ON ELECTRONIC PAYMENT AND COLLECTION SYSTEM (EPCS) IN GOVERNMENT

Pursuant to Section 27 of R.A. 8792, otherwise known as the "Electronic Commerce Act of 2000" and Section 37 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations, this Joint Department Administrative Order (JDAO) is hereby prescribed for the compliance, information, and guidance of all concerned.

I. DECLARATION OF POLICY

The State recognizes the vital role of information and communications technology (ICT) in nation-building.

It is the policy of the State to promote government use of electronic data messages, electronic documents and electronic signatures in the acceptance and filing of documents in connection with the payment and settlement of fees, charges, assessments and other obligations to the government.

It is further the policy of the State to require and/or accept payments and issue receipts acknowledging such payments through systems using electronic data messages or electronic documents.

II. ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

Government shall promote a stable legal environment, allow a fair allocation of scarce resources and protect public interest. Such role shall be no more than essential and shall be clear, transparent, objective, non-discriminatory, proportional, and flexible. Mechanisms for private sector input and involvement in policymaking shall be promoted and widely used.

III. OBJECTIVES

This JDAO is issued to prescribe policies and guidelines in the adoption of Electronic Payment and Collection System (EPCS) in government transactions.

The guidelines are expected to bring about more efficient and effective payment and collection services for the transacting clients and amongst the government offices through any authorized electronic payment and collection system, allowing the government to better manage its financial resources, thereby improving its revenue generation capability.

IV. PRINCIPLES OF IMPLEMENTATION

The EPCS to be used by the Government Entity must comply with the following basic principles:

1. Technology Neutrality
2. Interoperability
3. Operational Efficiency (Elimination of Red Tape)
4. Information Availability, Security, Privacy and Integrity
5. Auditability

V. SCOPE

This JDAO shall apply to all Government Entities that intend to use or which have existing EPCS for the collection of fees, charges, assessments and revenues.

The EPCS should be able to accommodate various modes and channels of electronic payments such as, but not limited to, credit cards, Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), debit cards, stored-value cards, mobile wallet payments and kiosks.

VI. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of this JDAO, the following terms are defined as follows:

AUTHORIZED AGENT BANK (AAB) refers to a bank with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)-approved internet banking facility and authorized as such by the concerned Government Entity and the Department of Finance (DOF). An AAB designated as a Collecting Bank can only receive electronic payments and act as intermediary or pass through entity. It can only maintain a Clearing Account or a hinged account for its collections in the name of the Government Entity/Treasurer of the Philippines (TOP).

AUTHORIZED GOVERNMENT DEPOSITORY BANK (AGDB) refers to a bank where Government Entities are allowed by law to deposit their funds and maintain depository accounts, or by way of exception, a bank authorized by the DOF and the Monetary Board (MB) to be a government depository bank.

BACK END SYSTEM refers to an EPCS application system and underlying infrastructure which stores, retrieves, manages, abstracts, transforms and otherwise processes data and information.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN (BCP) AND DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN (DRP) refers to the systematic planned procedures and facilities designed and deployed to allow the continuous operation of the EPCS in the event of a system failure. The BCP and DRP shall include, but is not limited to: remote server facilities, automated remote data back-up facilities, automated transaction roll-back/roll-forward mechanisms, and server/storage/connectivity redundancies.

CLEARING ACCOUNT refers to a settlement account opened and maintained by the Government Entity/Treasurer of the Philippines (TOP) with an AAB, which is zeroed out at the end of the period which is acceptable to the Bureau of the Treasury and credited to a liability account of the TOP with the designated AGDB.

COLLECTING BANK refers to any AGDB or AAB authorized to accept electronic payments for NC.

ELECTRONIC ARCHIVE refers to a long-term storage medium where copies of electronic documents in their usable form are stored for back-up/retention purposes.

ELECTRONIC OFFICIAL RECEIPT (EOR) refers to a proof of payment generated/issued through an EPCS with unique or sequential reference numbers that can be validated using the same system.

ELECTRONIC PAYMENT refers to the transfer of money or equivalent electronic representations of legal tender, for purposes of payment, solely through electronic means as opposed to the use of cash or physical notes to accomplish the same.

ELECTRONIC PAYMENT AND COLLECTION SYSTEM (EPCS) refers to a system that accepts and processes Electronic Payments, authenticates the payor and payee, validates availability of the funds, and executes the appropriate debit and credit instructions for the fund source and destination accounts, generates and forwards electronic proof of payment or EOR to the payor, or allows secure access thereto and creates, retains and safeguards the resulting detailed electronic transaction records which are accessible by authorized personnel.

ELECTRONIC PAYMENT GATEWAY PROVIDER (EPGP) refers to a bank or non-bank entity which operates and/or maintains an electronic payment and collection system.

FRONT END SYSTEM refers to the primary interface between the system's customers, which may be citizens transacting on their own behalf, or the interface to other systems which connect to the EPCS.

GOVERNMENT ELECTRONIC PAYMENT AND COLLECTION SYSTEM EVALUATION TEAM (GEPCSET) refers to an inter agency team mandated to evaluate, accredit and recommend the adoption of an EPCS by a Government Entity.

GOVERNMENT ENTITY refers to National Government Agencies (NGAs), Local Government Units (LGUs), Government Owned and/ or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), or State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) which are required by law to remit their collections to the National Treasury.

INTERBANK FUND TRANSFER refers to an unconditional order to a bank to pay a fixed or determinable amount of money to a beneficiary upon receipt or on a date stated in the order that is transmitted by electronic means.

NATIONAL COLLECTIONS (NC) refer to all fees, charges, assessments, and revenues collected by the Government Entity that are remitted to the BTr pursuant to law, rules, and regulations.

NATIONAL TREASURY refers to the Bureau of the Treasury mandated under Executive Order No. 449, s. 1997 to act as principal custodian of the financial assets of the National Government, its agencies and instrumentalities and manage the cash resources of the government, among others.

SERVICE AGREEMENT refers to an agreement entered into by the Government Entity with any Collecting Bank and/or EPGP and AGDB concerning the use of EPCS.

VII. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF EPCS

A. **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS** – The EPCS must have the following technical components:

1. **FRONT END SYSTEM** – The EPCS must have a front-end system which may be maintained by the Government Entity, connected to a Collecting Bank, or through an EPGP.
   The EPCS front-end system shall serve as the primary interface between the Government Entity and its clients, or other systems connected to the EPCS. The front-end system communicates through user interfaces or standard communication protocols to collect the data required and issue EOR to complete the transaction.
2. **BACK END SYSTEM** – The EPCS back-end system may be maintained directly by the Government Entity itself, EPGP or a Collecting Bank. This component must be able to:
   a. Maintain record of transactions;
   b. Provide the following daily reports to the BTr in electronic format as a result of payment and collection transactions:
      i. List of Deposited Collections, via email, File Transfer Protocol (FTP), and such other secured electronic means, with an option to download from the e-payment site;
      ii. Copies of automated deposit slips or their equivalent for validation; and
      iii. Other reports that may be required for financial management and/ or auditing purposes.
   c. Provide a facility for viewing, downloading and generating prescribed reports to the concerned Government Entities and BTr for all electronic payment and collection transactions.
3. **INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM** - The confidentiality, privacy, integrity, and availability of electronic information shall be based on the Philippine National Standards on Information Security Management System (ISMS) as approved by the Bureau of Product Standards. The EPCS shall comply with ISMS through the use of:
   a. Physical security measures and procedures to protect the EPCS, related electronic system and physical plant, and equipment from hazards and any unauthorized access and intrusions;
   b. Technical security measures that protect the EPCS and its access control;
   c. Administrative security procedures to provide for levels of access by select officials, personnel, and other persons authorized to access, maintain, develop, or inspect the EPCS; and
   d. Independent vulnerability assessment shall be conducted for the EPCS prior to the launching of operations and periodically as may be recommended by the GEPCSET. Results of such assessment should be favorable and acceptable to the GEPCSET.

   The EPCS shall also conform to DTI Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 8, signed on 21 July 2006, "Prescribing Guidelines for the Protection of Personal Data in Information and Communications System in the Private Sector".
4. **BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN (BCP) AND DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN (DRP)** – The EPCS shall be supported by a BCP/ DRP that is operational, satisfactorily tested, and approved by the GEPCSET.
5. **SUPPORT SERVICES.** The EPCS shall be supported by a 24/7 Technical Support and a Customer Help Desk.

B. **LEGAL AND DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS** - The Government Entity adopting an EPCS shall designate and authorize a Collecting Bank and/ or EPGP, to receive and process electronic payments for fees, charges, assessments, and revenues due to the Government Entity. In the case of EPGP, its partner bank must be an AGDB or an AAB.

The concerned Government Entity shall:

1. Enter into a Service Agreement with a designated Collecting Bank and/or EPGP that collects the NC in its behalf. The Service Agreement must be consistent with Sections 16 to 26, and 30 to 32 of the Electronic Commerce Law and must contain dispute resolution mechanisms or procedures.
   For purposes of this JDAO the AGDB and AAB shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
   a. The AGDB shall:
      i. Accept Electronic Payments and remittances of NC and credit all collections to the account of the TOP.
      ii. Maintain a deposit account in the name of the TOP to which NCs are credited.
      iii. Validate all deposits and remittances of NC.
      iv. Reconcile collection remittance data with the Government Entity and the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) as often as necessary or as may be required by the BTr.
      v. Ensure that data/ information obtained in connection with the performance of its duties shall be treated with utmost confidentiality.
      vi. Notify the Government Entity and the BTr when the transaction cannot be completed as a result of systems failure, the client(s) account has no sufficient fund, and all other circumstances that will prevent the consummation of the transaction.
      vii. Submit daily to the BTr the List of Deposited National Collections via email, File Transfer Protocol (FTP), or through such other secured electronic means.
      viii. Consolidate all branch reports and issue/deliver a credit advice to the BTr for all deposited collections.
      ix. Provide the BTr with viewing access of real time account for the purpose of monitoring cash flow.
      x. Provide Interbank Fund Transfer facility when necessary for efficient and effective service.
   b. The AAB shall:
      i. Accept electronic payments of clients and credit all collections to the Clearing Account of the Government Entity/TOP. All collections deposited at the Clearing Account shall be credited to the liability account due the TOP with the designated AGDB in accordance with the period acceptable to the Bureau of the Treasury.
      ii. Maintain a Clearing Account in the name of the Government Entity/ TOP where all collections of fees, charges, assessments and revenues due to the Government Entity shall be credited.
      iii. Validate all deposits and collections of fees, charges, assessments and revenues due to the Government Entity.
      iv. Reconcile collection remittance data with the concerned Government Entity and the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) as often as necessary or as may be required by the BTr.
      v. Notify the Government Entity and the BTr when the transaction can not be completed as a result of systems failure, the clients account has no sufficient funds, and all other circumstances that will prevent the consummation of the transaction.
      vi. Submit daily to the Government Entity validated transactional data/ reports on payments and collections of fees, charges, assessments and revenues due to the Government Entity.
      vii. Provide the Government Entity and the BTr with viewing access of real time account.
      viii. Consolidate all branch reports and issue/deliver a credit advice to the BTr for deposited collections remitted to the account of the TOP with the designated AGDB.
      ix. Provide Interbank Fund Transfer facility when necessary for efficient and effective service.
2. Agree on the Collection and Settlement Procedures applicable to all cases involving itself, its clients, and the Collecting Bank. The procedures shall not be made applicable to those issues and cases pertaining to reconciliation and validation of its remittances to the Bureau of the Treasury. It shall be actually and exclusively responsible in reconciling and validating the Abstract of Deposits/Remittances against its records.
3. Require the Collecting Bank and/or EPGP to secure the necessary consent/ approval, license or permit from the Department of Finance, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and other appropriate regulatory bodies for its electronic payment services.
4. Show proof that the designated Collecting Bank is authorized to act as intermediary or depository of NC
5. Present a copy of the User Acceptance Certificate pertaining to the EPCS which it has issued to the Collecting Bank or the EPGP

VIII. GOVERNMENT ELECTRONIC PAYMENT AND COLLECTION SYSTEM EVALUATION TEAM (GEPCSET)

A. For purposes of this JDAO, an inter-agency GEPCSET shall be created composed of representatives from the Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bureau of the Treasury (BTr), National Computer Center (NCC), and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. It shall convene on a specified date, time, and place to conduct the appropriate evaluation, accreditation and recommend the approval of applications to adopt EPCS or components thereof. It shall maintain a list of accredited EPCS providers which may be referred to by a Government Entity intending to implement an EPCS.

The GEPCSET shall be composed of the following members:

Chairman	DOF
Vice Chairman	DTI
Members	Two (2) representatives each from DOF, DTI, and NCC Four (4) representatives from BTr. Each member agency shall designate permanent representatives to the GEPCSET. These representatives shall render service to the GEPCSET for at least three (3) years. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) shall designate a permanent representative to the GEPCSET in an advisory capacity.

The GEPCSET may form into clusters, subject to the discretion of the GEPCSET Chairman.

B. Consistent with applicable laws, rules and regulations, the GEPCSET shall have the authority to formulate its own criteria and operating guidelines in evaluating, accrediting, and approving the adoption of the EPCS, including the authority to prescribe and collect a reasonable schedule of fees sourced from its activities. It shall exclusively at the first instance decide all legal, policy, technical, and other issues relative to its function.

C. DOF and DTI in coordination with the BTr must provide the GEPCSET with scholarships, training, and workshops to improve its members' core competencies in information and communications technology, legal and compliance, and banking and economics.

D. The GEPCSET shall conduct post system evaluation of an approved EPCS.

E. All fees assessed and collected by the GEPCSET in the performance of its function pursuant to this JDAO shall be deposited in a special account created for such purpose as authorized by the Permanent Committee created under Presidential Decree No. 1177 entitled, "Revising the Budget Process in Order to Institutionalize the Budgetary Innovations of the New Society", composed of the Secretary of Finance as Chairman and the Commissioner of the Budget and the Chairman, Commission on Audit, as members. The committee was authorized to issue rules and regulations concerning Special, Fiduciary and Trust Funds as well as monitor and evaluate the activities and balances of all Funds of the national government other than the General Fund.

The special account shall be administered and managed by the GEPCSET, subject to usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations

F. The DOF and the DTI shall request the Congress to allocate Five Million Pesos from the E-Government Fund as seed fund for the initial operation, training and acquisition of supplies and equipment of the GEPCSET. The GEPCSET will exist for three (3) years, after which, its functions shall be transferred to the DOF.

IX. DATA RETENTION PERIOD

All EPCS data, reports, records, documents, receipts and correspondence in their final form must be kept in the active file of the Government Entity for a minimum period of sixty (60) days. Thereafter, these shall be kept in Electronic Archives for a minimum period of ten (10) years.

X. CONFIDENTIALITY

Except as otherwise allowed under existing laws, electronic data messages or electronic documents of Government Entities shall not be disclosed to any third party.

XI. TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Government Entities with existing electronic payment and collection systems shall conform to the provisions of this JDAO within two years from its issuance.

For monitoring purposes, the DTI and DOF will jointly submit to the Congressional Oversight Committee for the E-Commerce Law the implementation status of this JDAO whenever required.

XII. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

In the event that any of the provision of this JDAO is hereby declared invalid or unconstitutional, all the provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and with legal effect.

XIII. OTHER PROVISION

A technical IRR shall be issued within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of the guidelines.

XIV. EFFECTIVITY

This Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication of its full text in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation

The GEPCSET shall issue its operations guidelines within ninety (90) days after effectivity of this JDAO.

Done this 25th day of October 2006 in Metro Manila, Republic of the Philippines.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

MARGARITO B. TEVES
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

PETER B. FAVILA
Secretary

(PDI – October 31, 2006)

SPORTS

Iligan cagers scuttle host Lanao Royals

TUBOD, LANAO DEL NORTE—THE VISITING ILIGAN ARCHANGELS dealt the host Lanao Royals a crushing 73-66 defeat Sunday in the ML Kwarta Padala Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) Second Conference at the Mindanao Civic Center.

Marvin Tundag returned from a two-game absence due to injury to lead the Archangels with 31 points off seven triples although it was Michael Bangloy, who secured the victory by scoring 10 of his 12 points in the final canto.

The Archangels of Mayor Lawrence L. Cruz and coach Ed Arugay improved their record to 2-3 while dealing a fourth loss in five games for the Royals of Gov. Imelda Q. Dimaporo and coach Angelito Quidlat.

Bangloy, scoreless in his team's first four games in the community-based league, powered a key 14-6 run that took the fight out of the Royals entering the final two minutes, 66-58.

The Royals answered with a free throw from Baltazar Jueves followed by a triple from his brother Arlo, 62-66. Dino Cabili then converted four straight free throws for 70-62, with 1:24 to go.

Cabili finished with 17 points for Iligan. Arlo Jueves paced the Royals with 14 markers followed by Robert Valconcha with 12.

Visayas division leader M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala of sports patron Michel Lhuillier and coach Raul Alcoseba and the Talisay Aquastars of coach Eddie Ybanez were playing at presstime last night at the New Cebu City Coliseum.

Games resume on Nov. 4 with the Toyota-Iloilo Turbos of Robert Uy and coach Jerry Jaranilla playing their first game when they visit the Aquastars.

STANDINGS	W	L
VISAYAS DIV.		
KP-Cebu	2	1
Talisay	1	1
Toyota-Iloilo	0	0
CL-Mantawi	1	2
MINDANAO DIV.		
HPP-MisOr	5	1
MPW-GenSan	2	2
Iligan	2	3
Lanao	1	4

GAME SATURDAY
(Talisay City Sports Center)
6 p.m.—Talisay Aquastars vs. Toyota-Iloilo Turbos

The scores:

ILIGAN 73—Tundag 31, Cabili 17, Bangloy 12, France 6, Ayodelle 5, Sereno 2, Espinosa 0, Gloria 0.

LANAO 66—A. Jueves 14, Valconcha 12, Senining 11 Mella 8, B. Jueves 8, Clavite 6, Abang 5, Rosal 2, Maghamil 0.

Quarters: 15-12, 33-35, 50-48, 73-66.

Netherlands rules world am; RP 38th

JAY BAYRON SIZZLED WITH A five-under-par 67 but the Philippines wound up in 38th place, a distant 41 strokes behind surprise winner the Netherlands at the end of the men's World Golf Team Championship in South Africa Sunday.

Marvin Dumandan carded a 74 to complete RP's best round of 141 after two 154s and a 150 in the three-to-play, two-to-count format for the event more popularly known as the Eisenhower Cup.

Michael Bibat, who counted in the first and third rounds, withdrew in the fourth round due to low blood pressure.

Joost Luiten played his last five holes in six-under-par and finished with a 67 while Wil Besseling shot a 70 to power the Netherlands to victory on a final round of 137 and a 72-hole total of 22-under 554.

That was two strokes better than Canada, which also closed out with a 137 to settle for second at 556.

The favored United States, champion in the last three editions of the biennial event, closed with a 138 and finished third at 557.

The previous best finish for the Dutch was a tie for eighth place in 1992 and 1994. The host South Africans finished tied for 22nd.

Besseling completed a title sweep for the Netherlands by topping the individual race with a 13-under 275.

Wales wound up fourth at 559 after a 140 followed by Korea (140-561), England (136-563), Scotland (140-563), Argentina (139-563), France (139-564) and Ireland (140-564) in that order.

JAY BAYRON: Lowest RP round

Bayron, 27, finally found his touch after three days of struggle, gunning down seven birdies against two bogeys at Stellenbosch Golf Club for a 34-33 card highlighted by three straight birdies from No. 15.

Dumandan came up with a birdie-par-eagle run from No. 6 to negate a string of bogeys from No. 2, but the spearhead of the RP team, backed by ICTSI, dropped two strokes in the first two holes at the back and never recovered.

Garcia, Arevalo anchor S'woods' WGAP romp

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—MANILA Southwoods nipped Alabang, 31-30, recently to rule the overall team crown of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines tournament at Sta. Elena.

Southwoods won two of three class divisions contested, with Claudine Garcia boosting its Class A squad's 475 points and Theresa Arevalo anchoring Class B to prevail over Sta. Elena and Alabang, respectively.

Tournament format counted points for a team's finish in every division and Alabang was overall runner-up after collecting two second place finishes, the other being in Class C, which was ruled by Tagaytay Highlands.

Nancy Ortiga of Sta. Elena edged teammate Rio Co for the overall individual championship, 275-274, but the host club got little help from the others to finish third in team play with 23 points.

Mely Levesa of Tagaytay Highlands finished third after losing out to Co in a countback.

Beachie Abiera, Lanfen Hsieg and Cristina Potenciano were the other members of the victorious Class A squad, while Florence Okiyama, Irene Siopongco and Glo Domingo were Arevalo's Class B teammates.

Dionne Cu, Rosalind Wee, Jessalyn Tan and Bernadette Wong made up the Class C winning Tagaytay Highlands team.

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A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

Peso surges to 4-year high of 49.73 to $1

Dollar weakens on slower US economic growth

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY HIT A NEW FOUR-YEAR HIGH OF 49.73 to a dollar in morning trade before closing at 49.82 as the US currency tumbled on weak third-quarter growth data in the world's largest economy.

The peso's further appreciation was tempered by some intervention from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as well as demand from some companies which had to fill up month-end requirements, currency traders said.

The closing rate of 49.82, which was nearer the intra-day low of 49.87 against the dollar, matched the closing rate last Friday.

Currency traders said that since Friday, the BSP has been buying dollars in the spot market. Even yesterday morning when the dollar was very weak across the board, the BSP was seen

PESO/ B3

IN THIS ISSUE

ALI earmarks P6B for UP project /B2

BIR misses Q1-Q3 collection target /B3

Investments in ecozones surge 37.3%

By Abigail L. Ho

INVESTMENTS REGISTERED WITH THE Philippine Economic Zone Authority jumped 37.3 percent to P62.9 billion as of Oct. 10 from P45.8 billion a year ago following the approval of nine new economic zone locator projects.

In a report to Trade Secretary Peter Favila, Peza director general Lilia de Lima said the nine newly approved projects represented an investment of close to P4.8 billion.

She said these new investments were expected to generate average export sales of close to $21.1 million a year and 672 new jobs.

Of the nine new projects, she said two were information technology-related involving P245.8 million in investments.

In the Jan. 1-to-Oct. 10 period, locator investments made up P49.8 billion of the P62.9-billion total, while developers accounted for a little more than P13 billion.

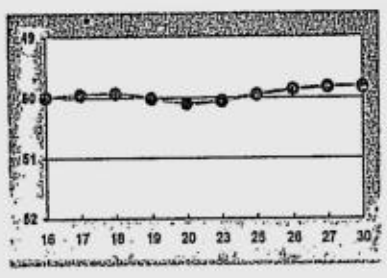
Locator projects numbered 290 and developer-initiated projects came up to 61 in the period covered this year.

During the same period last year, locator investments were placed at P41.4 billion and

INVESTMENTS/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 49.82 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 30, 2006

¥ 117.42 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 30, 2006

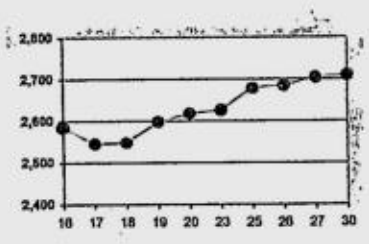
GOLD: $594.00-594.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 27, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

OCTOBER



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks up on follow-through buying

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.22-PERCENT higher yesterday on follow-through buying in select blue chips set to report earnings results, dealers said.

With a public holiday tomorrow and a shortened trading week, investors were also realizing some early profits, they added.

The composite index added 5.82 points to 2,708.19 after trading between 2,702.37 and 2,719.47.

Losers outnumbered gainers 49 to 38 with 57 unchanged. Turnover totaled 1.29 billion shares worth P3.33 billion.

Dealers said follow-through interest in blue chips Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and Megaworld Corp. ahead of their third-quarter results helped lift the market.

STOCKS / B2

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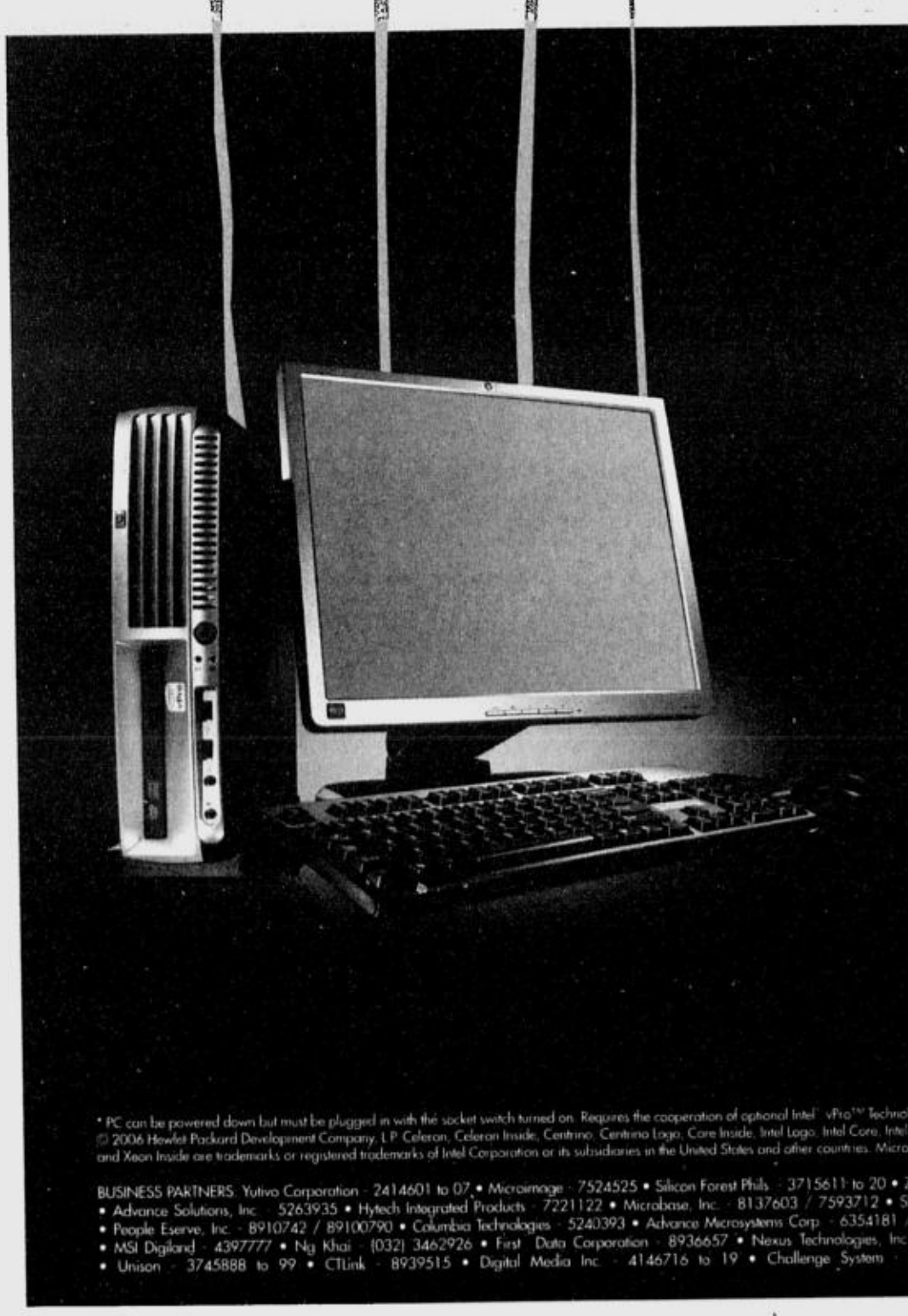

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ALI earmarks P6B for UP project

IT park to create environment for academe-R&D interaction

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AYALA LAND INC. IS INVESTING P6 BILLION in a science and technology park to be developed on a 38-hectare property of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

ALI senior vice president and head of the corporate business group Ma. Victoria Añonuevo said this following the signing last Friday of a 25-year lease agreement between the company and UP for the property that would be used.

Añonuevo said the amount would be infused over a period of five to 10 years.

Called the UP North Science and Technology Park, the project will feature low-rise office buildings to be complemented by retail, residential and hotel components. The development will start in the first half of 2007.

ALI president Jaime Ayala said in a statement that the science and technology park would support UP's commitment to education, training and research excellence by creating an environment where high-technology enterprises could interact with the academe in research and development.

UP president Emerlinda Roman said the IT park will solidify UP's position as the leading R&D university in the country and in the region.

Aside from the UP IT park, ALI is also set to launch in the second half of 2007 its Canlubang BPO (business process outsourcing) Campus, which features low-rise IT buildings supported by retail, commercial, residential and recreational developments.

The BPO campus is seen to catalyze the development of ALI's 1,700-hectare landbank in Canlubang into a regional growth center.

ALI offers 48,500 square meters of BPO office buildings in Metro Manila through PeopleSupport Center and Convergys in Makati, InfoNXX in Laguna and the HSBC building in Fort Bonifacio, which is under construction and will be completed next year. The HSBC office space will be managed by ALI but will be owned by Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.

In terms of industrial and business parks, ALI has 426 hectares of gross land area via its Laguna Technopark and Madrigal Business Park in Alabang.

Mirant policy on separation package signed

By Abigail L. Ho

MIRANT PHILIPPINES CORP. HAS FINALLY signed a policy providing for a separation package for employees of 2.5 months of salary for every year of service.

Mirant Philippines chair, president and chief executive Jose Leviste Jr. said the policy simply formalized a long-time practice of the company on employees' separation.

"This policy takes effect immediately and is much more generous than most other separation packages," he said in a statement yesterday.

This policy, he said, would be incorporated in the sale agreement for Atlanta-based Mirant Corp.'s shares, which included its Philippine assets.

He, however, said the sale would not affect the present corporate structure of Mirant Philippines.

"Since the shares to be sold are those of an offshore holding company, Mirant Philippines' local corporate structure and operations will not be affected," Leviste explained.

"We are selling the very same shares that we bought in 1997 to enter the Philippine power business. There was no change in Mirant Philippines' corporate structure when we acquired the business and we do not expect a change in the structure when this sale is completed," he added.

Although the completion of the sale would technically not affect the relationship between Mirant Philippines and its employees, he said that in the event employees are axed due to redundancy, they will get the separation package contained in the new policy.

Mirant Philippines' more than 1,200 employees, represented by three employees who filed separate petitions with the Department of Labor and Employment, had said the company's current management failed to provide them with a definite program that would protect their interest once Mirant had sold its Philippine holdings.

The newly signed policy, Leviste said, gave employees the protection they had been seeking all along.

Mirant earlier announced that it would sell its Philippine assets, together with some of the assets in the United States and the Carribean, through an international auction.

The sale of the Philippine company alone was expected to fetch some $3 billion for the parent company. Mirant expects the sale to take place next month.

4 firms added to blue-chip index

FOUR COMPANIES HAVE BEEN ADDED to the stock market's 30-company blue chip index following a six-month review by the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) that ended earlier this month.

This is the second time the PSE has made changes in the index since it started implementing its "free float" criteria on Apr. 3.

PSE sources said the companies added to the index were Holcim Philippines Inc., JG Summit Holdings, Security Bank Corp. and Semirara Mining Corp.

To be included in the PSE index, companies should be traded at least 95 percent of the total trading days; should be liquid or have an average daily trading value of at least P5 million; should have a volume turnover ratio of at least 10 percent, and a free float or public float level of at least 10 percent.

Dropped from the list were Metro Pacific Corp., Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc., Empire East Land and Manila Mining.

Aside from the PSEi, some listed firms could qualify under six "sector indices" such as banks or financial sector, industrial index (includes utilities, food and beverage firms), holding firms, property, services (includes telecommunications and gaming), and mining and oil sectors.

International Exchange Bank was knocked out of the financial index after its merger with Union Bank of the Philippines.

Removed from the industrials were Southeast Asia Cement Holdings and Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp. Added to the 11-company industrial index was Roxas Holdings Inc.

In the holding firms index, Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp. which has investments in bulk water and the MRT III transit system, and Filinvest Development Corp. were added to the nine-company index. Removed from this index was Sinophil Corp.

In the property index, four companies were dislodged: C&P Homes, Cyber Bay Corp., Suntrust Homes and Uniwide Holdings.

Joining the property index, on the other hand, was Cebu Holdings Inc.

There were no changes to the nine-company services index.

Four mining firms were added to the mining and oil index. These were Apex Mining Co., Oriental Petroleum , Philodrill Corp. and PetroEnergy Resources Corp.

The companies dropped from the sectoral indices become part of the broader all-shares index. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

WPI eyes high-end travelers mart

HOTEL OPERATOR WATERFRONT PHILIPPINES Inc., owned by plastics king William Gatchalian, will spend about P30 million for the improvement of a boutique hotel in Manila in a bid to win a big chunk of the high-end travelers market, WPI president Rexlon Gatchalian said.

WPI also said in a disclosure that it had signed a contract last Friday to lease and manage the 50-room , 800-square meter G Hotel Manila, which is owned and designed by architect Gerry Contreras.

G Hotel Manila by Waterfront will open on Nov. 16.

Gatchalian said WPI would likely open five more G hotels in key cities such as Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo and Bacolod.

"This is an innovation we wanted to introduce to the market. There is a market now for small premium hotels catering to high-end travelers who want privacy and personalized service," Gatchalian said.

A 50-room G Hotel is expected to generate revenues of P10 million a month. In future hotels, the number of rooms could be expanded to up to 150 rooms.

G Hotel Manila will be under the corporate management group of Waterfront Hotels and Casinos.

WPI is the country's largest Filipino-owned and managed first class hotel chain. It operates the following hotels: Manila Pavilion Hotel and Casino , Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino, Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino Mactan and Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao.

WPI has a total of 1,550 rooms, 1,560 employees, and over 41,300 square meters of convention and gaming space. It also houses the country's largest gaming facilities. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

SEC-CFD ORDER NO. 139
SERIES OF 2006

IN THE MATTER OF

METRO PACIFIC INVESTMENTS CORPORATION

- Registrant -

Registration of Securities

ORDER

Upon consideration of the Registration Statement and other papers and documents attached thereto which were filed for and on behalf of **Metro Pacific Investments Corporation**, the Commission resolved to render effective the same for the registration of the following securities, pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Regulation Code and its Implementing Rules and Regulations:

Common Shares	56,878,766
Subscription Warrants	170,636,298
Common shares underlying the subscription warrants	170,636,298

Let a Certificate of Permit to Offer Securities for Sale be issued in favor of **Metro Pacific Investments Corporation** authorizing the sale of the aforementioned securities.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the corporation once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines within ten (10) days from date hereof. The corporation is hereby directed to furnish the Commission with a copy of the affidavit of publication of this Order.

SO ORDERED.

EDSA, Mandaluyong City, Philippines, October 25, 2006.

JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of Export and Industry Bank has approved the retirement of president **Benjamin P. Castillo** effective Oct. 31. Its chair, **Jaime C. Gonzalez**, was appointed acting president.

***

THE BOARD of Victorias Milling Co., Inc. has accepted the resignation of **Alexis R. Borlaza** as chair of the audit committee and as member of the executive and the budget and finance committees.

***

CENTRO Escolar University has declared a cash dividend of P0.20 per share to stockholders of record as of Nov. 23, payable on Dec. 19.

***

ANSCOR Consolidated Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of A. Soriano Corp., has purchased 189,000 shares of A. Soriano Corp. for P2.67 per share on Oct. 27. *Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

Stocks up . . .

From page B1

"We expect more positioning ahead of the third-quarter results, but at the same time we don't rule out the possibility of short-term profit-taking," Accord Capital Equities analyst Lawrence de Leon said.

"The market is probably taking a breather also because we have a shortened trading week," he added.

Most actively traded PLDT jumped P50 to P2,360.

PLDT has said it expected its results for the three months to September, which will be released on Nov. 7, to show gains from a stronger peso.

Property developer Megaworld rose 8 centavos to P2.36. *AFP*

Investments ...

From page B1

developer investments at only P4.4 billion.

In terms of projects, those by locators totaled 268 and those of developers reached 37.

Peza, established in 1995, had since registered more than P1 trillion in investments. Last year, the agency registered around P67 billion worth of investments.

Peza said registered investments could increase by more than 10 percent this year.

In 2005, total exports from the country's economic zones grew 6.3 percent to $32.9 billion from $30.9 billion the year before.

Export revenues from the four public ecozones surged 17.4 percent to $8.1 billion, those from the 49 private or special economic zones (SEZ) increased 2.4 percent to $24.4 billion, and those from the 23 IT parks and buildings went up 82.1 percent to $376.1 million.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 30, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	70,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	44.5	44.5	43	44	868,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	62	62.5	61	62	1,665,500
China Banking Corp.	670	675	670	675	5,510
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	3,830,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	72	72.5	72	72.5	11,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	45.5	45.5	45	45.5	3,613,800
Philippine National Bank	35	35.5	35	35.5	13,600
Philippine Trust Co.	43	43	43	43	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	19.5	19.75	19.5	19.75	89,400
Security Bank Corp.	61.5	61.5	60	60.5	17,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	47	47	47	47	1,500
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	100,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.45	4.45	605,000
First Abacus Financial	0.53	0.56	0.53	0.56	240,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.1	1.26	1.1	1.24	4,353,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2015	2025	2015	2025	1,130
Ivantage Corp.	1.48	1.54	1.48	1.54	10,946,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	55.5	55.5	55	55	155,900
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	53	53	52.5	53	402,500
Manila Electric Co. A	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	16,200
Manila Electric Co. B	32	32.5	31.5	32	396,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.2	562,000
Petron Corp.	4.15	4.2	4.15	4.15	1,489,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	430,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	176,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	35,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22	22	21.75	22	20,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	41.5	41.5	40.5	40.5	842,900
RFM Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	455,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.8	3.75	3.75	226,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	66	66.5	66	66.5	55,600
San Miguel Corp. B	73.5	74.5	73.5	74.5	507,400
Universal Robina Corp.	20	21.5	20	21.5	3,408,400
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.55	0.55	0.52	0.52	8,430,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	1,029,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6	1,606,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5	5	5	5	3,000
Republic Cement Corp.	2.8	3	2.8	3	165,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.1	5.1	4.85	4.95	1,281,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.68	0.68	67,030,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	6,060,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	2,000,000
Ayala Corp.	505	505	492.5	495	167,980
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.9	6	5.9	5.9	369,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.045	0.06	0.045	0.05	166,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.7	2.75	2.65	2.7	505,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	1,060,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	20,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	3,230,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	57,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9	9	9	24,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	1,918,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5	665,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	1,787,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	8	8.1	8	8.1	1,718,000
Medco Holdings	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	300,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.66	1.66	3,657,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	29,100,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	700,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	3,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.77	1,150,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.135	5,050,000
SM Investments Corp.	280	280	277.5	280	24,490
South China Resources Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.92	910,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	129,000
Uniciol Res. & Holdings Co.	0.12	0.125	0.12	0.125	520,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	15.5	15	15	12,063,700
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	50,000
Belle Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.1	1.12	4,212,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.98	2.08	1.96	2	36,234,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	1,900,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	288,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.6	1.68	1.6	1.68	21,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,900,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	4,530,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.36	1.44	1.34	1.42	3,359,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0625	0.0625	0.06	0.0625	23,800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.74	7,475,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	690,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	260,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	20,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	11,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	6,150,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.82	0.88	0.82	0.82	1,830,000
Megaworld Corp.	2.28	2.38	2.28	2.36	45,598,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	2.3	2.48	2.3	2.38	618,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.35	0.35	2,310,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	110,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	15.5	15.5	15	15.25	4,110,400
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.46	0.48	0.44	0.47	34,030,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	9	9.1	8.9	9	18,909,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.6	0.6	400,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	21.5	21	21.25	153,500
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1	1	1	1	30,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.54	1.56	13,805,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1115	1120	1110	1110	34,430
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	4,017,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2330	2365	2330	2360	551,380
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Diversified Fin. Network	2	2	2	2	10,000
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	1,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.86	1.92	1.86	1.88	267,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	17,900,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	25,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	26,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	11,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	152,400
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.26	1.2	1.2	54,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	974,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.26	2.28	2.26	2.28	355,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	700,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.53	0.5	0.5	5,000,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.02	2.02	1.98	1.98	397,000
Paxys Inc.	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.5	735,200
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.38	28,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	4	4	4	4	20,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	2,393,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	1,249,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	139,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.1	8.1	8	8	1,003,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.1	19,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.245	0.245	0.235	0.24	420,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	780,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	90,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	35,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	230,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.8	3.95	3.75	3.95	13,228,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.25	916,700
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	1,590,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	950,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.3	3,630,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	47,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	40,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	140,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10	10.25	10	10	103,000
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	104	103	104	4,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES					
Information Capital Tech.	5.3	5.3	4	4.35	569,000

CURRENCIES

October 30, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.784806	1.000000	49.7970
Japan	Yen	0.006678	0.008509	0.4237
United Kingdom	Pound	1.488934	1.897200	94.4749
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100917	0.128588	6.4033
Switzerland	Franc	0.628599	0.800961	39.8855
Canada	Dollar	0.701346	0.893655	44.5013
Singapore	Dollar	0.503242	0.641231	31.9314
Australia	Dollar	0.602631	0.767872	38.2377
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.081825	2.652661	132.0946
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209444	0.266873	13.2895
Brunei	Dollar	0.501634	0.639182	31.8293
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021384	0.027248	1.3569
UAE	Dirham	0.213681	0.272272	13.5583
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.274200	63.4513
ArgentinaPeso		0.254189	0.323887	16.1286
Brazil	Real	0.367419	0.468165	23.3132
Denmark	Kroner	0.134127	0.170905	8.5106
India	Rupee	0.017413	0.022188	1.1049
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215016	0.273973	13.6430
Mexico	New Peso	0.073056	0.093088	4.6355
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518606	0.660808	32.9063
Norway	Kroner	0.120038	0.152952	7.6166
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012967	0.016523	0.8228
South Africa	Rand	0.106180	0.135294	6.7372
Korea	Won	0.000829	0.001056	0.0526
Sweden	Kroner	0.108541	0.138303	6.8871
Syria	Pound	0.015119	0.019264	0.9593
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023586	0.030053	1.4965
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000366	0.000466	0.0232

Smart, Piltel get NTC nod to proceed with promos

By Riza T. Olchondra

SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. (Piltel) have explained to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) that their "Gaan Talk P10/3min Flat Rate," and "Gaan Text All Text P20 load" services are available only to subscribers within their respective networks.

The regulator apparently accepted this explanation and promptly lifted the cease-and-desist order covering the promotions.

The stop order came about after Globe Telecom Inc. accused the sisters firms of engaging in cross offerings and predatory tactics.

In its complaint, Globe said Smart and Piltel introduced the promos without giving other cellular operators the opportunity to take part.

"The promotional scheme smacks of discrimination, as well as cutthroat competition, in violation of NTC Memorandum Circular 14-7-2000 and the Orders of the Honorable Commission in NTC Case 2005-022," Globe said in its complaint.

The NTC then issued a cease and desist order.

But Smart and Piltel said during the Oct. 27 hearing at the NTC that the promos would only be available "on-net"—or from Smart to Smart and from Piltel to Piltel.

After it lifted the order, the NTC asked Globe to reply to Smart and Piltel's explanation by Nov. 8.

Globe, meanwhile, maintains that the case is not over.

Globe vice president Froilan Castello said the NTC's stop order was lifted based on Smart's commitment that they will limit the service within its network.

But the telco had not proven that it did not offer the promo for use among Smart and Piltel subscribers.

False claims of tax perks worse than previously thought

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE said that from 2000 to 2004, the government actually lost an average of P12.7 billion in potential revenue a year due to false income tax exemption claims made by unscrupulous companies.

In 2004 alone, the amount of false income tax exemption claims reached P11.8 billion. The figure is bigger than the P5 billion earlier reported, according to a study made by the DOF.

A finance official said flaws in the process of verifying income tax exemption claims were largely the reason why some companies got away with fraud.

Companies registered with the Board of Investments (BOI) and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) are entitled to either a four- or six-year income tax holiday (ITH). ITH is one of the incentives granted to a company engaged in a business that the government deems a priority.

Under the current practice, a BOI- or Peza-registered firm, when filing its tax return, submits its claim of ITH to the BIR. The BOI and Peza would then verify the claim for income tax exemption, and inform the BIR whether the claim is valid.

But there are instances when the BOI takes a long time to inform the BIR that a claim was invalid, and that the tax should therefore be collected, the finance official said.

Under the BOI rules, the agency may take a maximum of two-and-a-half years to evaluate the validity of tax exemption claims.

But under the country's tax laws, the BIR can only go after a delinquent taxpayer within three years from the reference tax period.

To address these problems, the BIR will sign memoranda of agreement with the BOI and Peza. The MOAs will contain provisions, such as on interconnection of their databases for easy verification of ITH claims. *Michelle V. Remo*

BIR misses 9-mo income tax goal

Revenue chief blames shortfall on the decline in interest rates

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE missed its total income tax collection target for the first nine months of the year, citing the decline in interest rates as the key reason for the shortfall.

Data from the BIR showed that total income tax collected from January to September reached only P280.89 billion. This was 5 percent short of the P295.44 billion goal for the nine-month period.

With the shortfall in income tax collection, the BIR also missed by about P12 billion its total tax collection target for the first nine months.

The revenue agency's target for the period was set at P492.44 billion, but it only collected P480.76 billion.

However, the nine-month income tax collection was 18-percent higher than that of the same period last year. The year-on-year growth was partly attributed to the hike in the corporate income tax rate from 32 to 35 percent, as provided for under the VAT Reform Law.

BIR figures showed that from January to September the revenue agency collected only P14.45 billion worth of income tax from bank deposits, registering a 32-percent shortfall from its P21.37-billion goal.

Under the government's fiscal program for 2006, the 91-day Treasury bill rate was assumed to average between 6.4 and 6.5 percent. But the benchmark rate actually hovers at the 5-percent level. The 91-day T-bill rate was recorded at 5.465 percent in its most recent auction on Oct 23.

Aside from low interest rates, the decision of the Bureau of the Treasury to reduce the amount of government securities issued was also blamed for the lower-than-expected collection of income tax.

The cut in the issuance of Treasury bills and bonds is attributed to the government's dwindling borrowing needs.

Lower interest rate and the decline in the volume of issued Treasury bills and bonds meant lower collection of tax on income from government securities.

Figures showed that income tax from government securities reached only P24.98 billion, 21-percent lower than the P31.59-billion goal.

In a telephone interview, Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag reiterated his stand for the T-bills to be removed from the agency's tax collection target.

"We want the tax on T-bills taken away from our target because we have no control over its collection," Buñag said. "It should be transferred to the Bureau of the Treasury. [The BTr] has control, but the shortfall is on us."

Collection of individual income tax reached P97.02 billion, 2.53-percent higher than the target of P94.62 billion.

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PSALM still hoping it can sell off Transco

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) is racing to privatize the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) before year's end, even though it pushed back the deadline for the submission of final bid documents to Dec. 20 from the original Nov. 7 schedule.

PSALM president Nieves Osorio said the government agency merely responded to investor appeals for the deadline to be moved, to give them more time to conduct due diligence procedures and prepare their final bid documents.

Following PSALM's evaluation of prequalification documents submitted by prospective bidders, Osorio said three investor groups qualified to participate in the final bidding for the 25-year Transco concession.

The prequalification stage, she said, involved a stringent process that included obtaining the necessary verification and confirmation of appropriate government agencies.

The members of the PSALM-Transco Technical Working Group, who conducted the evaluation, had coordinated with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Foreign Affairs, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Bureau of Internal Revenue to ensure the technical and financial competence of the prospective bidders.

The team also conducted site visits to the Metro Manila offices of the three investor groups, she said.

Also, Osorio said PSALM and Transco management over the past two weeks held one-on-one meetings with each of the prospective bidders where issues and concerns related to the Transco concession were discussed.

But she declined to divulge the identities of the prequalified bidders.

"Based on the proposals we received, the technical partners of the three groups are currently operating transmission systems that are at least three times bigger than the Philippines, and with peak demands that are at least two times higher than ours," Osorio said.

Peso surges to 4-year high ...

From page B1

briefly buying dollars.

"Some banks went into short-covering. At the same time, there was some demand from oil companies which curbed the peso's rise," one trader said.

But aside from gaining on the dollar's weakness, the local currency was supported by strong foreign portfolio inflows as well as remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

Across the region, the greenback lost ground following reports that the US economy had expanded by only 1.6 percent in the third quarter over a year ago, its weakest pace in more than three years, due to a sluggish housing market.

The weak American growth data bolstered expectations that the US Federal Reserve would keep its interest rates on hold. On the other hand, the local financial market is bracing for a potential cut in the BSP's own overnight rates during the next Monetary Board meeting on Nov. 2.

"The market is expecting the BSP to really bring down overnight rates by a quarter percentage point although they (officials) have been saying they're still quite apprehensive on the growth of liquidity," one bank treasurer said.

But the banker said the growth in liquidity was partly driven by the funds going into unit investment trust funds rather than new money.

The BSP has kept its overnight rates at 7.5 percent rate for overnight borrowing and 9.75 percent for overnight lending, the same levels kept since October last year.

Meanwhile, the peso has appreciated by nearly 7 percent since the start of the year on the back of strong foreign exchange inflows.

The robust inflows to the country were also mirrored by the strong build-up in foreign currency deposit units' (FCDUs) deposit liabilities, which rose for the second week and reached a new end-of-week high for the year at $17.4 billion as of Sept. 22, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

This was $2.3 billion or 15.23 percent higher than the year-ago level of $17.3 billion.

"The increase in the level of FCDU deposit liabilities is brought about by additional short-term special savings deposits from the manufacturing, realty and utilities sectors," the BSP said.

Mercer College MERCER

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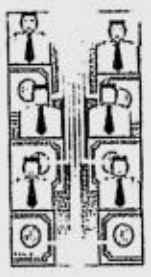

Compensation Planning and Budgeting

When planning your company's compensation package or updating pay programs and budgeting for them, you are faced with the following questions:

- How competitive are my company's pay policies and practices?
- Are the company's pay practices equitable across functions, divisions, locations, pay levels?
- Are we paying unnecessary premiums or dangerous discounts?
- How much should the salary increase budget be?
- How should pay increases be allocated across performance levels and market positioning (compa-ratios)?

You will be able to help your organization manage its pay programs and ensure that they are fair, competitive, and affordable while supporting your organization's compensation strategy

Seminar Coverage

- How to create an internal project plan for updating your company's base pay plans
- How to develop a salary plan update schedule
- Data requirements and collection
- How to analyze the competitiveness of the company's pay structures and pay practices
- How to use scatter grams and regression analysis to analyze internal pay relationships to identify problem areas
- How to develop your company's definition of internal equity
- How to calculate individual and group compa-ratios
- How to model and calculate base pay costs
- How to recommend base pay to management
- Considerations in the amount of the increase
- Merit increase guidelines
- Timing of increases

Who will benefit?

This course is designed for emerging compensation professionals with limited experience in using a comprehensive, consistent and analytical process to update pay programs.

Date: 10 November 2006, Friday
Time: 9:00 am 5:00 pm
Venue: Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City
Fee: PHP 9,500 (VAT inclusive)

Leadership Training Series

True leadership is about engaging people in a vision of the future, imagining what could be possible, and helping others see the same. The real key to business success is not only the quality of management, but more critically, how effectively the leaders lead.

Consider the following:

How well equipped are the managers in the skills of leadership?
Are the frontline and middle managers able to achieve results while inspiring others and gaining their commitment?
Will the quality of leadership in the organization be a reason why high performers stay, or why they might leave?

Designed for current and future leaders, Mercer College's Leadership Training Series consists of highly interactive and engaging four (4) 1-day training modules, which are conducted in pairs.

Module 1: Personal Credibility and Impact
Learn the differences between effective management and leadership. Explore ways to become an effective leader and analyze your personal leadership style. This module helps you gain greater self-awareness about your leadership strengths and development areas.

Module 2: Building Commitment and Capability
This module focuses on building on the notion of trust and its importance in many of the key roles of a leader, especially, in terms of giving effective feedback, being a motivating coach and leading synergistic teamwork.

Module 3: Leading for Performance and Results
Participants are trained on the results-based approach to leadership through a discussion of concepts such as the balanced scorecard and performance cycle. This then translates in to establishing objectives and expectations for others and identifying ways to lead the team to greater levels of performance and success.

Module 4: Leading Effective Change
Using Kotter's research on how great leaders lead change, this module provides participants with the insight and practical steps needed in effectively overcoming resistance and "keeping people with you" in times of change.

Who will benefit?

All individuals who wish to strengthen their leadership capabilities and develop themselves, as an effective leader will benefit the most from the training series. These include Frontline Managers, Supervisors or Middle Managers; recently appointed leaders, experienced leaders seeking to extend their leadership effectiveness, and individuals marked for future leadership roles.

Participants are invited to attend all modules but one may also opt to enroll in only one of the two pairs to best address leadership development needs.

Modules 1&2
Date: 23-24 November 2006 Thursday/Friday
Time: 9:00 am 5.00 pm
Fee: PHP 16,800 (VAT inclusive)

Modules 3&4
Date. 7-8 December 2006 Thursday/Friday
Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Fee: PHP 16,800 (VAT inclusive)

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Tel: (632) 810 0704 / 05
Fax: (632) 810 2242
Email: yien.cortes@mercer.com

About the facilitator

Noel A. De Leon, PhD is the Managing Director of Mercer Human Resource Consulting in the Philippines. He is overall responsible for the Growth and Profitability of the Philippine office. He has more than 25 years of experience in Human Resources Management and Information Technology. He holds a BS degree in Engineering, a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) and a Doctorate Degree (Ph.D.) in Organizational Development

In the consulting arena, he has developed expertise in the strategic management of the human resource. He has designed and implemented the compensation, incentive plan, competency and performance management programs of many multinational and local organizations across industries and across the Region.

Noel A. de Leon is the Chairman of the Association of Appreciative Inquiry of the Philippines, Vice President of the Compensation Management Society. He is also the author of numerous published articles. He regularly facilitates public seminars and is frequently invited as guest/resource person to lecture on various topics by the media (TV), professional groups, the academe and business groups. When time permits, he teaches in the graduate school of business on a part-time basis.

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave. Makati City	Luis Kristianto	System Architect/ Integration Test Mark
ASSI PHILS TRADING CORPORATION Stall 420, Bldg. 4 FTI Complex West Bicutan, Taguig City	Jong Chul Shin	Export Manager
ASSI PHILS TRADING CORPORATION Stall 420, Bldg. 4 FTI Complex West Bicutan, Taguig City	Hea Sook Shin	Marketing Manager
ANLOY TRADING CORPORATION 11 San Antonio de Padua St. Villa Sabina Subd., Talipapa Novaliches, Quezon City	Chin-Yu Chen	Managing Director
CONNECT88 INC. 28/F Yuchengco Tower I RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Jitong Tan	Technical Staff
HARD ROCK CAFE (MAKATI CITY), INC. Levels 3 & 4, Glorietta 3 Ayala Center, Makati City	Yeo Hen Teck	Kitchen Supervisor
CONNECT88 INC. 28/F Yuchengco Tower I RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Lili He	Technical Staff
CONNECT88 INC. 28/F Yuchengco Tower I RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Lan Xie	Technical Staff
CONNECT88 INC. 28/F Yuchengco Tower I RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Cham Kok Huat	Technical Staff
CONNECT88 INC. 28/F Yuchengco Tower I RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Xiaoli Zuo	Technical Staff
CONNECT88 INC. 28/F Yuchengco Tower I RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Wan Thong Chew	Technical Staff Support Staff
DISCOVERY TOUR, INC. G/F Unit 301 Saguittarius Building H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village Makati City	Yoshihiro Yasuda	Sales Manager-Japanese Department
NORWEGIAN MARITIME FOUNDATION OF THE PHILS. INC. NTC Bldg., TESDA Complex East Service Rd., Taguig, Metro Manila	Morten Solo Johnsen	Consultant

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Oct. 31, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Camarines Sur
Municipality of Caramoan

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: October 31, 2006
Contract ID No. SP-056-EQ-01
World Bank Loan No.: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the Local Government Finance and Development (LOGOFIND) Project and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the ***Supply, Delivery and Installation of Medical Equipments, Furnitures and Computers***. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The ***Municipality of Caramoan*** invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the ***following***:
   Lot A – Medical Equipments
   Lot B – Medical Apparatuses
   Lot C – Furnitures
   Lot D – Computers
   Lot E – X-Ray Machine
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting ***November 6, 2006 during office hours at the Municipal Treasurer's Office, Old Municipal Hall Building*** for a nonrefundable fee of ***Three Thousand Pesos (Php3,000.00)***. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the Office of the Bids & Awards Committee.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security for each lot in the amount of: ***Lot A – Php 38,750.00, Lot B – Php 14,350.00, Lot C – Php 8,300.00, Lot D – Php 10,450.00 and Lot E – Php 100,000.00*** in a form of cash, certified check or bank guarantee in a form specified in the bidding documents and shall be delivered to the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Municipal Hall New Building, Caramoan, Camarines Sur on or before December 5, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held on ***November 22, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.***, at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Office of the ***BAC Secretariat, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Municipal Hall New Building, Caramoan, Camarines Sur.***

(Sgd.) TOMAS ROXAS RECTO
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 31, 2006)

More Classifieds:

Department of Trade and Industry — Page A24
Department of the Interior and Local Government — Page B6
Department of Education, Culture and Sports — Page B6
PITC PHARMA, INC. — Page B6

Inquirer Job Market
Employment Expo
November 20 to 22
at the Glorietta
Activity Center

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PEZA FORMS
(4th Quarter 2006)

1. The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA), through its Corporate Budget for the CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of P 1,078,500.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of PEZA Forms. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following GOODS:

	PARTICULARS	QUANTITY
		(pads)
Form No. 8101	— Import Permit	3,000
Form No. 8104	— Export Tally	3,500
Form No. 8105	— Application for Permit to Bring Goods from the Customs Territory into the Zone	2,500
Form No. 8106	— Application for Permit to Bring Goods from the Zone into the Customs Territory	5,500
Form No. 8110	— Application to Withdraw Goods from the Zone for Sample Purposes	450
Form No. 8112	— Application for Permit to Sell Ecozone Made Goods Within the Ecozone	750
Authority to Withdraw		2,400
Boat Notes		2,500

Delivery of the GOODS is required within thirty (30) calendar days from the date receipt of the Notice to Proceed. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and at least five (5) years experience in the printing industry. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 31 October to 10 November 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays from the address below upon submission of a certified copy of a DBM-GEPS Certification as a registered supplier/contractor and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (P1,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 14 November 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 29 November 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 29 November 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg. III Roxas Blvd. Corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
10. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building III Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website: www.peza.gov.ph

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 31 & November 7, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5285

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

PARTICULAR	*APPROVED BUDGET*
One Piece of 30MWe Steam Water Separator Vessel under FGJ 60846	*PHP 8,600,000.00*

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Roderick R. Cabantog starting October 31, 2006, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP1,000.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **November 9, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property and Materials Management Division, at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Office Wall Clock time) on November 23, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI–October 31, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 90, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION
FOR REHABILITATION OF:
SPECIAL PROCEEDING NO. Q-06-159
LEXBER, INC.,
Petitioner.
x - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

STAY ORDER

Before this Court is a verified Petition for corporate rehabilitation with prayer for a Stay Order filed by the above-named petitioner.

Briefly, the petitioner alleges that despite the fact that it has total assets of Php 374,109,899.00, it has encountered temporary illiquidity problems which prevents it from paying maturing loans and other obligations. The proposed rehabilitation plan calls *dacion en pago* of certain properties to Land Bank, payment of reduced interest rates ranging from 6% to 8% per annum over ten (10) years, among other things. Consequently, the petitioner prays for the issuance of a Stay Order pending proceedings before this Court.

A careful examination of the petition shows that the same conforms substantially with Section 2, Rule 4 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation (see also Supreme Court Resolution *en banc* in A.M. No.00-8-10-SC). This Court therefore finds the Petition to be sufficient in form and substance.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, this Court issues a Stay Order, in accordance with Section 6, Rule 4 of the aforecited Interim Rules, as follows:

1.) Appointing Atty. Rafael Chris F. Teston as rehabilitation receiver who shall be considered as an officer of the court and who shall have the powers, duties and functions as provided in Section 14, Rule 4 of the aforecited Interim Rules. The rehabilitation receiver must post a bond of Php 1,000,000.00 before entering upon his powers, duties and functions and must take an oath, as provided under Section 15, Rule 4 of the aforecited Interim Rules. The petitioner is directed to serve immediately a copy of this Stay Order upon the rehabilitation receiver, Atty. Rafael Chris F. Teston who shall manifest his acceptance or non-acceptance of his appointment not later than five (5) days from his receipt hereof.

2.) Staying enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by court action or otherwise, against the petitioner, and its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the petitioner including the staying of proceedings of collection cases filed against the petitioner, and the staying of the enforcement/implementation of application/s for extra-judicial foreclosure sale/s and actual foreclosure sale/s, if any, against the real and personal properties of the petitioner;

3.) Prohibiting the petitioner from selling, encumbering, transferring, or disposing in any manner any of its properties except in the ordinary course of business.

4.) Prohibiting the petitioner from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as at the date of filing of the petition on October 9, 2006.

5.) Prohibiting the suppliers of the petitioner from withholding supply of goods or services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the petitioner makes payments for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this Stay Order.

6.) Directing the petitioner to pay in full all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of this Stay Order.

The initial hearing on the petition is set on **November 21, 2006 (Tuesday) at 2:00 P.M.** at the session room of Branch 90 of this Court located at the Ground Floor of the Hall of Justice Building, Quezon City Hall complex, Quezon City. In the event the initial hearing does not push through for any reason like there is no work on said date, the hearing shall be reset to **December 4, 2006 (Monday) at 2:00 P.M.** All creditors and all interested parties including the Securities and Exchange Commission are directed to file with this Court and serve upon the petitioner a verified comment on or opposition to the Petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing as set forth above, and they are put on notice that their failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings before this Court. All creditors and all interested parties are further directed to secure from this Court copies of the Petition and its annexes within such time as to enable them to file their verified comment on or opposition thereto and to prepare them for the initial hearing and to attain this purpose, the petitioner is ordered to file with this Court initially ten (10) additional copies of the Petition and its annexes within ten (10) days from receipt hereof.

The petitioner is furthermore directed by this Court to have a copy of this Order published in the business section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Bulletin, The Philippine Star and one other newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines chosen by raffle if it is a newspaper other than the herein-named newspapers, considering the probable presence of creditors and interested parties in other parts of Luzon, once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks, with the last publication effected at least three (3) weeks prior to the date of initial hearing as set forth above, at the expense of the petitioner.

Atty. Mercedita C. Cariño, Branch Clerk of Court, is ordered to see to it that the Process Server shall serve immediately copies of this Stay Order upon: 1) Mr. Alejandro G. Cruz-Herrera (the president of the petitioner), Lexber, Inc., 63 Panay Avenue, Quezon City, 2) Atty. Patricia M. Osoteo (counsel for the petitioner), 2203-A West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City; 3) Atty. Rafael Chris F. Teston, 10 Amber St., Phase I, Pilar Village, Las Piñas City; and 4) the Honorable Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, EDSA (Epifanio De Los Santos Avenue), Mandaluyong City.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, October 16, 2006

REYNALDO B. DAWAY, C.P.A.
Presiding Judge

(PDI – Oct. 27 & 31, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **South China Resources, Inc.** (formerly South China Petroleum & Exploration, Inc.) has moved to a new address:

3/F Low Rise Pacific Star Bldg.,
Sen Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave.,
Makati City

We can be reached thru the following numbers:

Tel. No.: (632) 892-2049
Telefax No.: (632) 812-2383

(PDI - Oct. 23 to 27, Oct. 30 to 31, & Nov. 1 to 3, 2006)

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STUDENT CONDO
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VERY NEAR
UNIV BELT
FULLY
FURNISHED
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P12T mo.
5311384 *
09209504626

SMCM HS Batch '96 reunion

MARIANS 1996 OF Saint Mary's College of Meycauayan High School Department are invited to the BIGaTENg Reunion (10 years in the making), a casual dinner party on November 25, 2006 at Plaza Verde along McArthur Highway, Marilao, Bulacan. Alumni are also requested to send photographs during high school through Christian Andaya at christian.andaya@senate.gov.ph, or Lawyer Ma. Jasmin Casaje at jasmincasaje@yahoo.com. For further details and inquiries, you may get in touch with Ada Alcancia at fbalcancia@transco.ph or 09209608205.

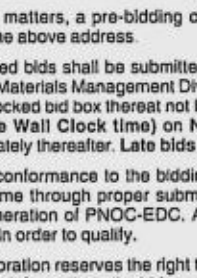
JOBCompact
Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.
JOB Market

OBITUARIES

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Tel. Nos. Q.C.: 712-3001 • 749-3806 to 11

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION DATE & TIME	INTERMENT/CREMATION PLACE
Patria delos Reyes	Chapel -5	November 4, 2006 9:00 A.M.	Paz Crematory
Antonio Espiritu	Chapel -11	November 4, 2006 12:30 P.M.	Paz Crematory



An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

In Loving Memory of

CAPT. JAIME NUÑEZ ORCINE, PN (Ret.)

I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free; I took His hand when I heard Him call; I turned my back and left it all. If my parting has left a void; Then fill it with remembered joy. My life's been full, I savored much; Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss; Ah yes, these things, I too, will miss. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief; Don't Lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your hearts and share with me; God wanted me now, He set me free.

His body lies in state at Orcine Residence: 63 Luna St. Moonwalk Village, Las Piñas City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 4, 2006, 12nn at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

The Board of Directors, Stockholders and Officers of

ZENCO SALES, INC.

Wish to announce the demise of its beloved

Founder and Chairman Emeritus

MR. YAO KA PHO

(October 4, 1926 - October 29, 2006)

who peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 80.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor
of Santuario de San Antonio Parish,
Forbes Park, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday,
November 7, 2006
at 7:30 a.m. at the Capilla del Señor.

Cremation will immediately follow at the
mortuary and crematory at the Heritage Park.

KBP Golden Dove winners bared

WINNERS IN THE 15TH GOLDEN Dove Award given out by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) are an enviable lot-they bask in the glory of being recognized by the industry while doing the job they like most.

The individual winners in a glittering awarding ceremonies held recently at the Star Theater in Pasay City were engineer Arcadio M. Carandang as KBP Lifetime Achievement Awardee and Angelo Castro of ABS-CBN as Ka Doroy Broadcaster of the Year Awardee.

Other winners were: Best Television Station, ABS-CBN Channel 2; Best AM Radio Station DYAB-AM Cebu; Best FM Radio Station, DWRX-FM Monster Radio; Best Newscast Program on TV, "News Central" of Studio 23; Best Radio Newscast, "Radyo Patrol Balita Alas Siyete" of DZMM-AM.

Best Public Affairs Program for TV, "Probe" - Channel 2; for Radio, "Aksyon Hotline" of DYEZ -AM Bacolod; Best Variety Program for TV, "Little Big Star" of Channel 2; for Radio, "Family Matters" of DZAS-AM Manila; Best Comedy Program for TV, "Goin' Bulilit" of Channel 2; for Radio, "Rated R" of DYAB-AM of Cebu; Best Drama Program for TV, "Maalaala Mo Kaya, 'Regalo'" of Channel 2, for Radio, "Pinoy Klasiks Noli Me Tangere" of DZAS-AM Manila.

Best Culture & Arts Program for TV, "Paano Kita Mapapasalamatan - A Tribute to George Canseco" of Channel 2, for Radio, DXND Special Report "Aksa Sato" of DXND-AM Kidapawan; Best Children's Program for TV (sponsored by Unicef) "Okiddo" of DXAS TV 4 of Davao; for Radio, "Usapang Pambata" of DXND Kidapawan; Best Documentary Program for TV, "Dokyu" of Channel 5; for Radio, "Siyasat" of DWIZ-AM Manila; Best Science & Technology Program for Radio (sponsored by DOST), "Bago Yan Ah!" Of DZMM-AM Manila.

Best Public Service Program for TV, "KTV (Kalusugan TV)" of Channel 9; for Radio, "Pilipinas Online Bantay OCW" of Radyo ng Bayan; Best Newscaster for TV, Mari Kaimo of News Central Studio 23; for Radio, Ted Failon of DZMM-AM; Best Field Reporter for TV, Kharen Serra of DXAS of TV4 Davao; for Radio, Michael Rogas of DZXL-AM; Best Public Affairs Program Host for TV, Ali Sotto- "Ali!" of Channel 5; for Radio, Korina Sanchez of DZMM-AM and Joey Lina of "Sagot Ko Yan" over DZMM-AM.

Best Variety Program Host for Radio, Winnie Cordero of DZMM-AM; Best Music Radio Jock, "Dr. Love" Tom Alvarez; Best Public Service Announcement (PSA) for TV, "Flicker" of Channel 2; for Radio, "Kurapsyon at Baha" of DWKT-FM; Best Station Promotional Materials, Everest "Kaya ng Pinoy" of Channel 2; for Radio, MOR "Wrong-Correct" plugs of DYOO-FM of Bacolod City.

The KBP Golden Dove Awards, now on its 15th year of recognizing exemplary achievements by individuals and stations in the field of broadcasting, is the only major award devoted exclusively to recognizing excellence in the broadcast industry. Through the years, the KBP Golden Dove Awards have helped promote higher standards of quality and professionalism in the broadcast media and encouraged the production of more socially relevant TV and radio programming.

This year, the KBP introduced an innovation by encouraging audiences in the provinces to participate in identifying individuals, programs, and stations deserving of recognition. Manny Luzon, chair of the KBP awards and recognition committee, said that for this year, the KBP, through its local chapters, organized a "Local Board of Nominations" consisting of prominent citizens in local communities who nominated candidates for the awards in their areas.

KITARO TIES UP WITH PEPSI

Kitaro, the fastest-growing Japanese casual dining restaurant chain, and Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines Inc inked an agreement for a strategic partnership in their marketing efforts nationwide. Kitaro, which opened outlets at Maysilo in Mandaluyong and at Lakeshore in Mexico, Pampanga now has 45 branches throughout the country in just seven years of operation. Kitaro chief executive Grace Chuachiaco (2nd from left) shakes hands with Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines vice president Felix Yu after the contract signing at Kitaro Eastwood in Libis. At left is Kitaro president Addie Cukingnan and Pepsi-Cola vice president Quintion Gomez (right).

TOASTING 25 YEARS OF WORKING WITH WINNERS

Watson Wyatt Worldwide, one of the leading global consulting firms in the world, recently held a cocktail reception celebrating its 25th year in the Philippines at the Makati Shangri-La Rizal Ballroom. With the theme 'Watson Wyatt Philippines at 25: Working with Winners', it commemorated success with clients. Shown are Andrew Heard, Asean managing director (2nd from right, 2nd row) and other Watson Wyatt Philippines associates, consultants and past consultants.

Mozart music

THE WORLD-CLASS MARCO POLO PLAZA CEbu, one of the most elegant hotels in the Queen City of the South, keeps the spirit of Mozart alive as it commemorates his 250th birth year with two musical evenings on Nov. 3 and 4. Listen to The Sound of Austria as its repertoire takes us through the life of the legendary composer via a musical journey of his timeless compositions. Dinner cocktails will satisfy your gustatory desires afterwards, For reservations, call (032) 253-1111 in Cebu or 888-8168 in Manila.

Enchanted Halloween

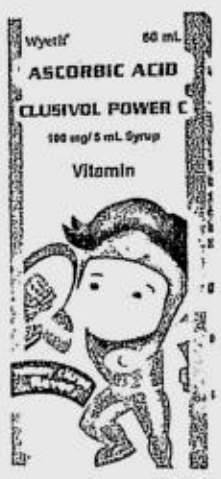
THE RENAISSANCE MAKATI CITY HOTEL, MANIla (formerly the New World Renaissance Hotel), offers an unforgettable Halloween holiday treat with the "Enchanted Halloween" special room package ongoing until Nov. 3. Stay at a plush deluxe room for P3,499+++ (room only) or P4,499+++ (inclusive of buffet breakfast for two at the Coffee Shop). A maximum of two adults and two children, with ages 12 or below, may stay in a room. The special discounted room package offer is only for local residents and foreigners with a valid alien certificate of registration. A delightful bonus for families who avail themselves of the "Enchanted Halloween" room package are two free one-day passes for children to Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, valid until Nov. 1. For more information or reservations, call the Renaissance Makati City Hotel, Manila at 811-6888.

Halloween fun at Watsons

WATSONS PERSONAL CARE STORES TREATS its customers with unique affordable items for sharing the Halloween fun. Imported merchandise include wizard hats with flashing lights and monster hand candy bags at only P69 each; devil and cats ears headbands at only P39 each. Customers can avail themselves of these special items for any single purchase at a Watsons outlet all over the country. Also find sinfully delicious goodies made available by Wrigleys and Arcor. Get these special Halloween items available at all 166 Watsons outlets nationwide until today only.

Even for kids, 'Bawal Magkasakit'

CLUSIVOL EXTENDS ITS "BAWal Magkasakit" battlecry to children through its newest Vitamin C supplement for kids--Clusivol Power C. Clusivol Power C answers parents' wish to provide their children the kind of protection that Clusivol has been able to give them. Each dose of Clusivol Power C contains 100mg of Ascorbic Acid that gives kids 100-percent Vitamin C. Vitamin C helps prevent and treat ascorbic acid deficiency in children. It helps the body to resist infection by strengthening the immune system, thus making the body tougher against diseases. These benefits come in a child-friendly flavored syrup, so that mothers never have to worry about making their kids take their Vitamin C. Its yummy citrus flavor will surely make kids take it every day. With this new vitamin supplement, mothers can be assured that their child is safe from sickness, without overspending. To fit the budget of every mother in ensuring that kids are protected, Clusivol Power C is priced at P55 per 60 ml bottle. Clusivol Power C is available at leading drugstores nationwide.



PITC PHARMA, INC.
116 NDC Bldg., Tordesillas St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Telephone Nos. 840-4838 local 241/261/271
E-mail Address: PITCPharmaInc@yahoo.com

The PITC PHARMA, INC. BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (PITC PHARMA-BAC) invites PITC accredited consolidators, as well as other consolidators, for parallel imported pharmaceutical products and supplies that can meet the following minimum qualifications to apply for accreditation and to bid for the supply and delivery of branded medicines:

1. With at least two (2) years extensive experience in the export of multinational/parallel branded pharmaceutical products.
2. With tie up or preferably able to work with a reputable Philippine-based representative office or company.
3. Must have pharmaceutical products with valid Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) issued by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) in the name of PITC and/or must be prepared to provide PITC Pharma Inc. with all documents and comply with all requirements under DOH Administration Order No. 85 (s 2000).
4. Must be willing to shoulder the cost of application and initial tests for the registration of the branded medicines in PITC or PITC Pharma Inc.'s name with BFAD.
5. With warehousing facility at loading port appropriate for storage of pharmaceutical products. Consolidators bidding for products originating/manufactured in country other than when the consolidator has its main office must submit authenticated copies of license to operate and proofs of existence of their office and warehousing facilities at the country of origin of the product/s, and
6. With minimum paid capitalization of USD50,000.00.

The approved budget for the contract (ABC) of the project: *Supply and Delivery of Various Medicines under the Parallel Drug Importation (PDI) for First Semester, 2007 Requirements* is P150,000,000.00 (one hundred fifty million pesos). This is in compliance with the MTPDP, as envisioned by Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and being implemented by Sec. Roberto M. Pagdanganan.

Bid documents will be available for issuance from November 2 to 8, 2006, weekdays only, from 8:00am to 4:00pm from the PITC Pharma-BAC Secretariat located at the 9/F NDC Bldg., 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 (five thousand pesos). Consolidators without Certificates of Accreditation from PITC must secure accreditation forms and comply with the requirements for accreditation for submission with the bid documents under the eligibility requirements on or before November 21, 2006, 12:00nn to the BAC Secretariat. Payment of accreditation fee of P10,000.00 (ten thousand pesos) shall be made upon advice of PITC Pharma BAC.

The schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Issuance of bid documents	2-8 Nov. 2006	8:00am – 4:00 pm	9/F PITC Pharma Office, NDC Bldg.
Pre-Bid Conference	10 Nov. 2006	1:00 pm	5/F Conference Room, NDC Bldg.
Last Day of Submission of Bid Document	21 Nov. 2006	1:00 pm	9/F PITC Pharma Office, NDC Bldg.
Bid Opening	21 Nov. 2006	1:30 pm	5/F Conference Room, NDC Bldg.

Bidders may submit their queries, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat through fax: 891-2054, not later than three (3) working days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184. In accordance with such IRR-A, a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and responsive Bidder determined during the post-qualification stage.

PITC Pharma Inc. BAC assumes no obligation whatsoever to accredit any firm or entity that does not meet its accreditation and eligibility requirements nor to award any project to any firm or entity on the sole basis of accreditation. Further, PITC Pharma Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, waive any defect or informalities therein and/or accept the offer/s most advantageous and beneficial to the government. Furthermore, PITC Pharma Inc. assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate any firm or entity for any amounts or expenses incurred in preparation of accreditation and eligibility forms.

(Sgd) ENG'R JESUS B. CANTOS
CHAIR, PITC Pharma Inc. Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 31, 2006)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
A. Francisco Gold Condominium II,
EDSA cor. Mapagmahal St.,
Diliman, Quezon City

Isang malugod na pagbati kay

Ka Eduardo V. Manalo

ng

Iglesia ni Cristo

sa kanyang

ika-51 kaarawan sa
ika-31 ng Oktubre, 2006

Maligayang kaarawan!

Taos pusong pagbati mula
sa buong **DILG** sa
pamumuno ni

Kalihim Ronaldo V. Puno

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

DepED
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Telefax. 633-9343
Direct Line: 636-6542 to 43
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Republic of the Philippines
Supply and Delivery of Textbooks and Teacher's Manuals in HeKaSi 6 and Araling Panlipunan (AP) I to IV to Public Elementary School Districts and Secondary School Nationwide
NPSBE Loan No. 7393-PH and SEDIP LA 1654 – PHI
IFB No. X-2006-TX-TM

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business issue no. 686 of September 16, 2006.
2. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) toward the cost of National Program Support for Basic Education (NPSBE), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It intends to apply part of proceeds of these loans to payments under the Contract for Printing (from Camera-ready Materials) and Delivery of Textbooks and Teacher's Manuals in HeKaSi 6 and Araling Panlipunan I to IV.
3. The Department of Education (DepED) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for supply and delivery of textbooks and teacher's manuals indicated below to selected Public Elementary School Districts and High Schools nationwide.

Lot No.	Subject & Level (Item)	Total (in copies)		Zone 1		Zone 2		Zone 3		Zone 4	
		TX	TM	TX	TM	TX	TM	TX	TM	TX	TM
	Elementary:										
1	HeKaSi 6	1,923,629	54,381	423,367	15,025	633,293	18,685	412,409	14,596	454,560	16,075
	High School:										
2	AP I	1,872,270	48,884	382,440	10,745	623,882	16,985	425,091	10,248	440,857	10,906
3	AP II	1,364,515	35,410	296,641	8,482	445,723	12,143	310,147	7,185	312,004	7,800
	AP III	245,843	3,033	26,324	405	20,989	325	109,409	1,254	89,121	1,049
4	AP IV	213,138	2,663	22,607	357	18,841	278	94,306	1,005	77,384	1,023
	Grand Total	5,619,395	154,371	1,151,379	35,014	1,742,728	48,416	1,351,362	34,288	1,373,926	36,653

Estimated Printing and Delivery Completion Period: 150 calendar days. Indicative Printing and Delivery Dates: January 2007 to May 2007.
Interested suppliers should have been in operation for a minimum of three years prior to the bid submission date, and an important part of their business must be in the development of authorship and publication of educational materials or manufacturing of printed and bound education materials, or as consolidators of educational materials.

4. Bidding will be conducted through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Service, DepED, Bids and Awards Committee Chairperson, with e-mail: deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com.ph and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m., Monday to Friday. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph and www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone nos. (632) 636-65 43, 633-9343 or fax no. 636-65-42.
6. Qualification requirements include: *technical, financial, legal and other requirement* such as having successfully completed minimum of 2 similar contracts similar in size and scope in the last 5 years, demonstrate available cash flow arrangement equivalent to at least 75% of the amount of the proposed contract, valid business licenses, and list of printing and packing equipment. A margin of preference shall be granted to Textbooks manufactured in Purchaser's country for purposes of bid price comparison only. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of a written Application to the address below and payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of Php4,500.00 or US$85.00. The method of payment will be in cash, cashier's check or manager's check.
8. A pre-bid conference shall be conducted on **November 16, 2006**, 10:00 a.m., at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines.
9. Bids must be submitted to the address below at or before 10:00 a.m. on **December 11, 2006**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount equivalent to at least 2.5% of the bid price, in Philippine Peso or in any freely convertible currency of eligible countries in the form provided in the Bid Data Sheet and/or Section IV, Bidding Forms.
10. The addresses referred to above are:
    1. For obtaining information and purchasing the Bidding Documents
       Procurement Service
       Department of Education
       Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Building, DepED Complex
       Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines 1600
       e-mail: deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com.ph
    2. For Submission and Opening of Bids
       The Chairperson
       Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
       Department of Education
       Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex
       Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines 1600
11. DepED-BAC in consultation with the End-user, reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

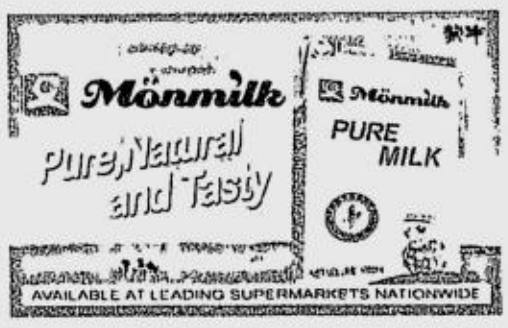
(Sgd.) RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary and Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

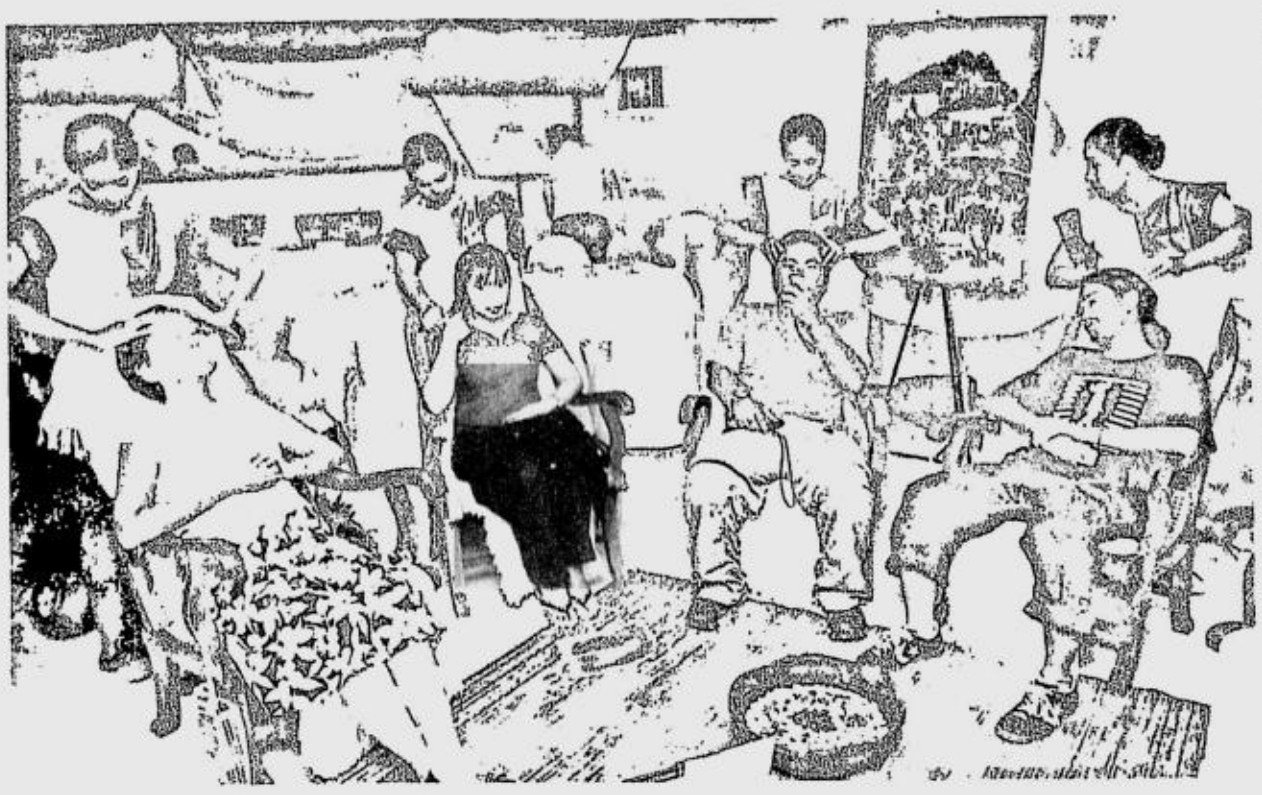
(PDI–Oct. 31 & Nov. 7, 2006)

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph





NURTURE Spa brings the spa to the workplace, letting people take just a few steps to a state of bliss, eliminating the additional stress of driving or commuting. At left, under a canopy of swags of white and amid the scent of lemongrass, stressed-out journalists take a 15-minute journey to relaxation via aromatic Marma Point Massage.

Where's the 'Sparty'?

Parties are for wanton dissipation. So why not have a spa for a party?

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Rudy Esperas

THROUGH THE years, the INQUIRER's multipurpose room has undergone many transformations. At one point, the staff got so hooked on playing darts that it was made into a game room. But that backfired when the concrete floor got pockmarked from inept players missing targets.

The same room has also been used for aerobics, Taebo and Pilates by employees. Sometimes, it's the rehearsal room for the company's amateur singers and musicians, at other times a mess hall. But for the most part, it serves as a venue for company meetings, seminars and lectures.

So it was quite a pleasant treat when one evening, that same room transformed into a virtual garden with greens, bamboo and ornamentals set up on the corner where the air conditioner used to be. The room was decked in swags of gossamer white fabric, mood-lit with votive candles and incandescent lamps.

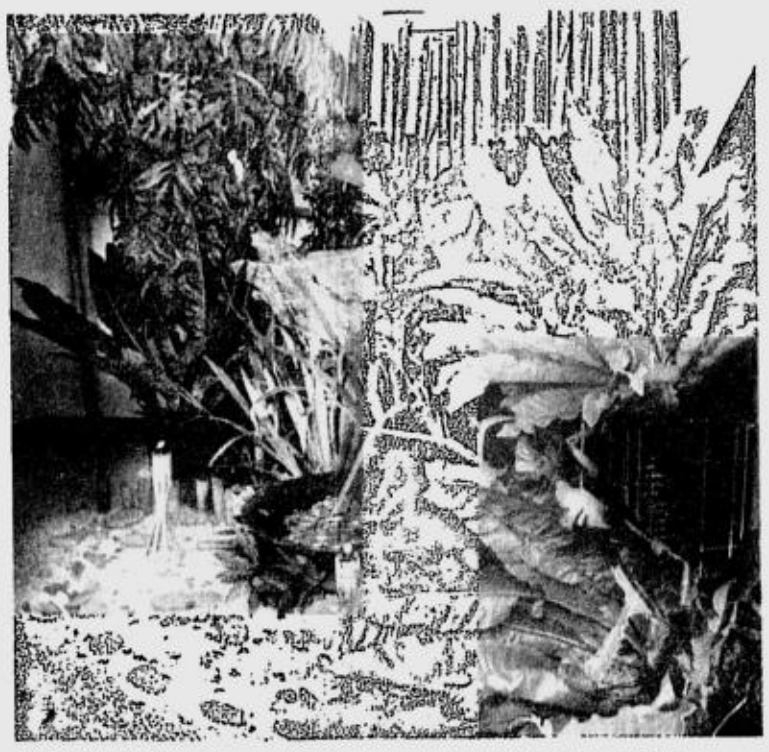
Strewn on the floor where a bamboo rag had been laid out were extra-large cushy pillows. The stirring scent of lemongrass wafted in harmony with the nature music playing in the background. Four reclining wooden chairs covered with thick white blankets sat four staffers already enjoying a facial massage from therapists.

We had a spa in the building!

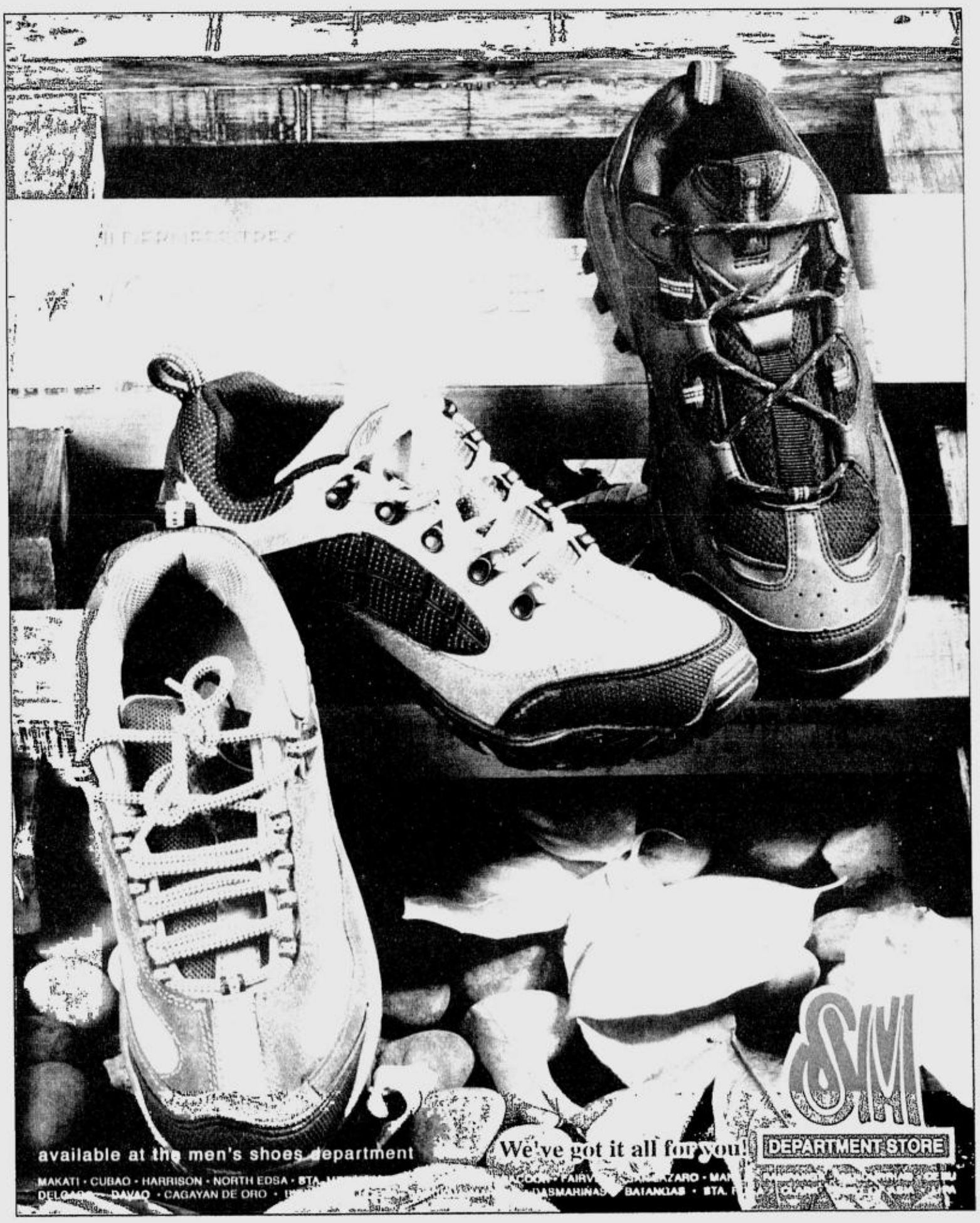
"Sparty," or spa party, is a relatively new concept that's meant as an alternative to parties as Filipinos know them. Instead of booze, food, karaoke, more booze and food, a sparty offers a relaxing and stress-free alternative by bringing the ambience and services of a spa to a get-together. You have no time to go to the spa? The spa goes to you.

The idea, according to Cathy Brillantes-Turvill, is to bring wellness back especially to younger people, and give them a chance to "detoxify" earlier in life. "Too much alcohol and the daily stresses of modern life wears your body down more than you realize it," she said. "A microvacation, or a compressed recess by taking a break at spa can re-balance your whole being."

WHERE'S/ C2



A RELAXING garden setting is recreated right inside an office meeting room, banishing briefly on a Friday evening, utilitarian conference tables and chairs.



'Dead' before death

INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

WHILE THE SPIRIT MAY BE lost because of death, there is a loss that is just as painful.

Psychotherapists call it "losing the spirit"—a kind of death where one is still physically alive. The condition of losing the spirit is a malady most people may be unaware of.

Walking dead

This is a zombie-like state where an individual "cares not, feels not, dares not" because of loss of one's sense of life and animo.

The symptoms are loss of...

• Appetite—when one has no desire for just about everything—food, love, work, friendships, socializing, etc.

• Energy—chronic fatigue even upon awakening in the morning and at day's end. No matter how many pills you take to energize yourself, you are still at the zero-battery level.

• Humor—taking life too seriously that it robs you of your sense of humor. When you are not amused by the funniest of situations or are unable to laugh at yourself, then it's time to take hold of yourself and say "Lighten up!"

• Joy—a lightness of being is a gift of grace from the spirit. So when you find yourself sad all the time, then your heart is weighed down by dark expectations.

• Newness—a sense of beginning is a sign of a person who has the power at self-healing. Even if you find yourself at a dead-end, seeing the end as an opportunity to begin, to start anew, allows you to restart, remake, redo your life.

• Faith—because trust is the twin sister of faith, there is no belief system in the world that is not anchored on faith. This is an act of surrender to the Almighty, someone far greater than yourself that promises a new life, a positive outcome. Thus, one cannot have faith without trusting that all good things will come your way.

Never say die

There is an expression or a dare actually—"surrender or die." While humorously depicting the irony of life, this challenge is often thrown at those who dare to do whatever the spirit moves them to. Short of being a dare-devil, choosing "die" means "I risk it all because I have faith that, in the end, I will win."

And yet, surrendering to a greater force that directs our lives is as challenging as risking it all, isn't it? In this respect, surrendering is the same as dying.

Recapturing the spirit

If you feel you are losing the spirit, begin today to recapture it. Oblige yourself today.

• Face yourself in the mirror and admit your shortcomings.

• Apologize to yourself for letting yourself down.

• Prepare a to-do list of things that will make you happy—a visit to the salon or spa, coffee or tea with friends, catching the latest movie.

• Devote a whole hour of quiet time to yourself to reconnect with your most private thoughts.

• On a piece of paper, write down a dream you wish to revive.

Bath soak:

In a candle-lit bathroom, have a 10-minute soak in warm water. Keep the faucet silently running and just listen to the soothing sound of moving water. This is both relaxing and healing. Before soaking, rub a light film of virgin coconut oil on your skin to prevent dehydration.

That's the spirit

Once you have decided to be kinder to yourself, you will be on your way to being in the spirit of things. Your battle cry? "I am alive!"

Love and light!

Cooking for diabetics is chef's major challenge

CHEF WILFREDO "WILLY" V. DOMINGO HAS the difficult task of serving food that does not only taste good but will also contribute to the health and well-being of those who will eat it.

As chef of the St. Luke's Hospital, Domingo is aware that correct nutrition can enhance healing and wellness, while an improper diet can aggravate a disease.

An effective nutrition program can minimize hospital costs and improve quality of life.

Domingo, who has worked in various five-star hotels here and abroad, says cooking is highly individualized in a hospital. A chef has to consider the dietary requirements of each patient while creating dishes that would whet his/her appetite.

A recent study showed malnutrition was a problem in hospitals. Malnutrition rates among patients who are admitted range from 15 to more than 80 percent. Those already in the hospital have a 60-percent chance of further decline in nutritional status.

Domingo said this was because the sick had poor appetites. A chef had to be creative and make the food tempting so patients were encouraged to eat.

Particularly at risk of malnutrition are the elderly, chronic heart failure patients, patients suffering from gastrointestinal (GI) cancer and other GI disorders, and those recovering from GI surgery.

Malnutrition slows down the healing of a wound and increase the risk of complications that could lengthen a patient's stay in hospital or raise the risk of death.

Diabetics whose blood sugar levels have to be closely monitored require special diets. They need nutritious food that would not cause extreme changes in blood glucose levels.

For Domingo, cooking for diabetics is a continuing challenge. It helps make his job easier that nutritional supplements, like Glucerna SR, is now in the market.

Manufactured by Abbott Laboratories, Glucerna SR in chocolate and vanilla flavors in powder and liquid form, is an oral meal replacement for people with diabetes.

A can of Glucerna SR gives diabetics complete, balanced food while maintaining normal blood sugar levels.

Domingo said unique low-calorie and low-sugar dishes could also be made using nutritional supplements specially formulated for diabetics. The chef uses Glucerna SR to make healthy desserts, cookies and pastries for diabetics.

Visit www.glucerna.recipes.

Diabetes expo Nov. 4

THE PHILIPPINE DIABetes Association (PDA) is presenting Diabetes Expo 2006 Nov. 4-5 at Megatrade Hall 1, the 5th floor, Bldg B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Participating in the event are medical and health organizations, pharmaceutical companies and consumer product companies.

Dr. Ma. Teresa Plata-Que, PDA president, said the event would feature informative and educational presentations, lectures and demos about diabetes and diabetes-related issues and concerns, not just for diabetics but also their families.

The expo is part of a series of PDA activities preceding the PDA Annual Convention, Nov. 21-22.

World Diabetes Day will be marked Nov. 14. This year's theme is "Diabetes in the Disadvantaged and the Vulnerable."

Visualization technique to lose weight

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime T. Licauco

DURING MY SERIES OF TALKS IN Sri Lanka and India, a number of participants asked me if I had a visualization or mental technique to lose weight.

I said yes. There is definitely a powerful mental technique to help people lose weight without having to do heavy exercises or following a debilitating diet.

But this visualization technique requires discipline and daily practice to obtain good results. It requires the use of one's whole brain, meaning both left and right hemispheres of the neocortex, as well as the limbic system.

The left half of our brain is responsible for verbal thinking, analysis, logic and abstract ideas. The right half is responsible for nonverbal thinking, such as imagination, creativity, intuition, synthesis, depth and perspective, etc. The limbic system is involved with emotions.

Let's talk about how to use the left, analytical brain in goal setting. Your goal must be stated in a very specific and concrete way. It should focus on the results you want; it must be time specific and measurable.

For example, your goal may be stated thus: "I want to reduce my weight by 10 pounds in 30 days." In just one sentence you have complied with the requirements of your left analytical brain.

Difficult but fun

Now comes the more difficult part, but which really is fun to do. It is this part that will spell the difference between success or failure in meeting your goal. I refer to the right brain's role in goal-setting and achievement.

You should be able to see, hear, smell, taste, and touch (or feel) your goal once it is achieved. In other words, you should be able to describe in as concrete and as detailed a manner possible, the outcome when you achieve your goal.

You can create a form where you can write down your answers to the following right-brain questions:

1. What will I look like when I achieve my goal of reducing my weight by 10 lbs (sense of sight)?
2. What will I smell when I have achieved my goal (sense of smell)?
3. What will I hear (sense of hearing)?
4. What will I taste (sense of taste)?
5. What will I feel (sense of touch)?

If you cannot describe the outcome of your goal in specific terms or reply to all the above questions, you may have difficulty achieving it. This is what makes this whole-brain type of goal-setting different from others you may have come across.

Detailed notes

After this, you should write down in detail the emotions you will feel or experience when you have achieved your goal. The limbic portion of your brain is engaged here. Write every positive emotion you can think of when you achieve your goal.

Lastly, you should enumerate the pay-off you will get when you achieve your goal. What are the benefits you will get out of this? What is the return on investment or ROI? What good is it to you to reduce your weight by 10 lbs?

As pointed out earlier, this mental technique requires practice to take effect. How often should you do this visualization for weight reduction? You should visualize your goal or practice it for 15 minutes twice a day, once in the morning after waking up, and once in the evening before sleeping.

If you can answer all these questions in concrete detail and practice it daily as prescribed, you will surely achieve your goal, no matter how difficult or impossible it may seem.

The above goal-setting technique, however, is not only for weight reduction. It can be used to great advantage for any worthwhile goal. There was, for example, a group of nuns whose application for Social Security System loan to construct a building was disapproved.

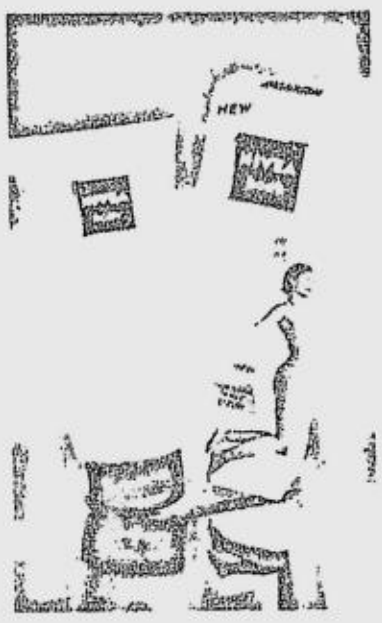
Upon learning of this visualization technique, they reapplied but, this time, they did the visualization religiously twice a day. They got their loan this time, to their great amazement.

Needless to say this technique should never be used to harm others, or to put others at a disadvantage. Try it and watch the results.

Note: Send e-mail to: innerawareness_2005@yahoo.com.ph. Listen to my Sunday radio program 7:30-8:30 p.m. on dzMM radio 630 khz. For inquiries about seminars offered by the Inner Mind Development Institute, please call 8107245, 8926806 or 0917-6193998.

New anti-cellulite product launched

TO CELEBRATE THE ARrival in the Philippines of its Body Good-bye Cellulite, Nivea held an afternoon of beauty, health and fun at The Spa in Acropolis Libis.



The event, hosted by TV personality Dyan Castillejo and supermodel and yoga enthusiast Raya Mananquil, was graced by some of the country's top mannequins, as well as beauty and health writers and editors who participated in a holistic approach to battling cellulite.

Guests performed simple yoga routines led by Raya Mananquil. Joining her were fellow supermodels Isabel Roces and Valerie de los Santos.

After the invigorating yoga session, Nivea treated guests to relaxing massage treatments courtesy of The Spa's massage experts.

Guests also learned about the amazing properties of Nivea body Good-bye Cellulite with skin's own L-Carnitine that has a twofold effect as it works on the deeper layers of the skin: Strengthens the connective tissue where cellulite occurs to prevent fat cells from "pushing through" to the skin's surface; and has an active and positive effect on the skin's metabolism by turning fat into energy and prevent cellulite recurrence.

Nivea Body Good-bye Cellulite also has menthol that provides a cooling effect which leads to an activation of blood circulation and better destruction of fat cells.

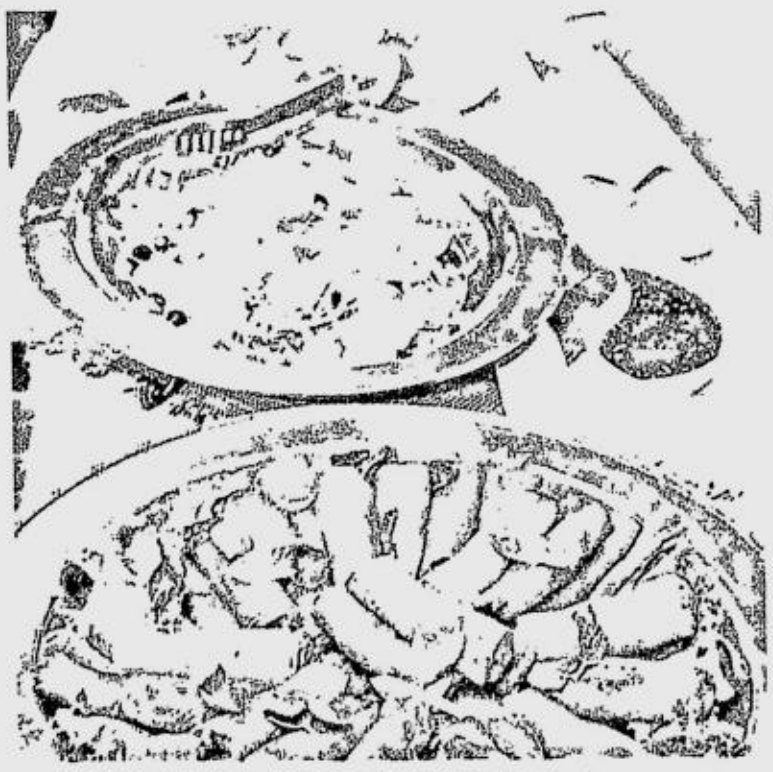
After two weeks of regular use, skin is noticeably toned and smoothened, and after four weeks, cellulite is visibly reduced.

Where's the 'Sparty'?

From page C1

Brillantes-Turvill and her British husband, Mike Turvill, own and manage The Nurture Spa, a destination spa in Tagaytay City (tel 8380073, www.nurture.com.ph). Their four-year-old outfit offers several Spa Microvacation packages, from a one-hour treatment to two-day stay at The Nurture. The Turvills said that a short spa retreat can provide the same rejuvenating benefits as extended vacations.

However, they also understand not everyone has the luxury of time to make the drive up to Tagaytay that the idea of bringing the spa to people who want and need them was hatched.



"SPARTY" appetizers include spring rolls wrapped in lettuce Vietnamese-style, chlorophyll-rich salad in oriental dressing, and vitamin A-rich carrot and celery sticks with energy-giving yoghurt dip.

Itinerant spa

The Nurture Spa brings the entire spa setup to the home or choice venue of the client—from the tables and chairs, to the swags, the lighting, the music and "all the accoutrements to create a spa ambience." They also take care of the food and the banquet setup.

"Wellness doesn't have to be boring," Brillantes-Turvill said. "We prepare healthy, sumptuous food," and they're not necessarily vegetarian. At the INQUIRER sparty, the buffet consisted of chicken, fish and pork dishes, with a variety of vegan salads, a wild rice dish, pastries and fresh fruits. Non-alcoholic beverages were also served. A welcome drink of tarragon tea was served.

"I was your typical English guy," Mike Turvill shared. "I played rugby, drank a lot. I loved my pint. But there comes a time when your body says enough."

SPA Professionals' Mike Turvill, who has a Ph.D. in organic chemistry, talks about how aromatherapy creates moods—from romance to rejuvenation.

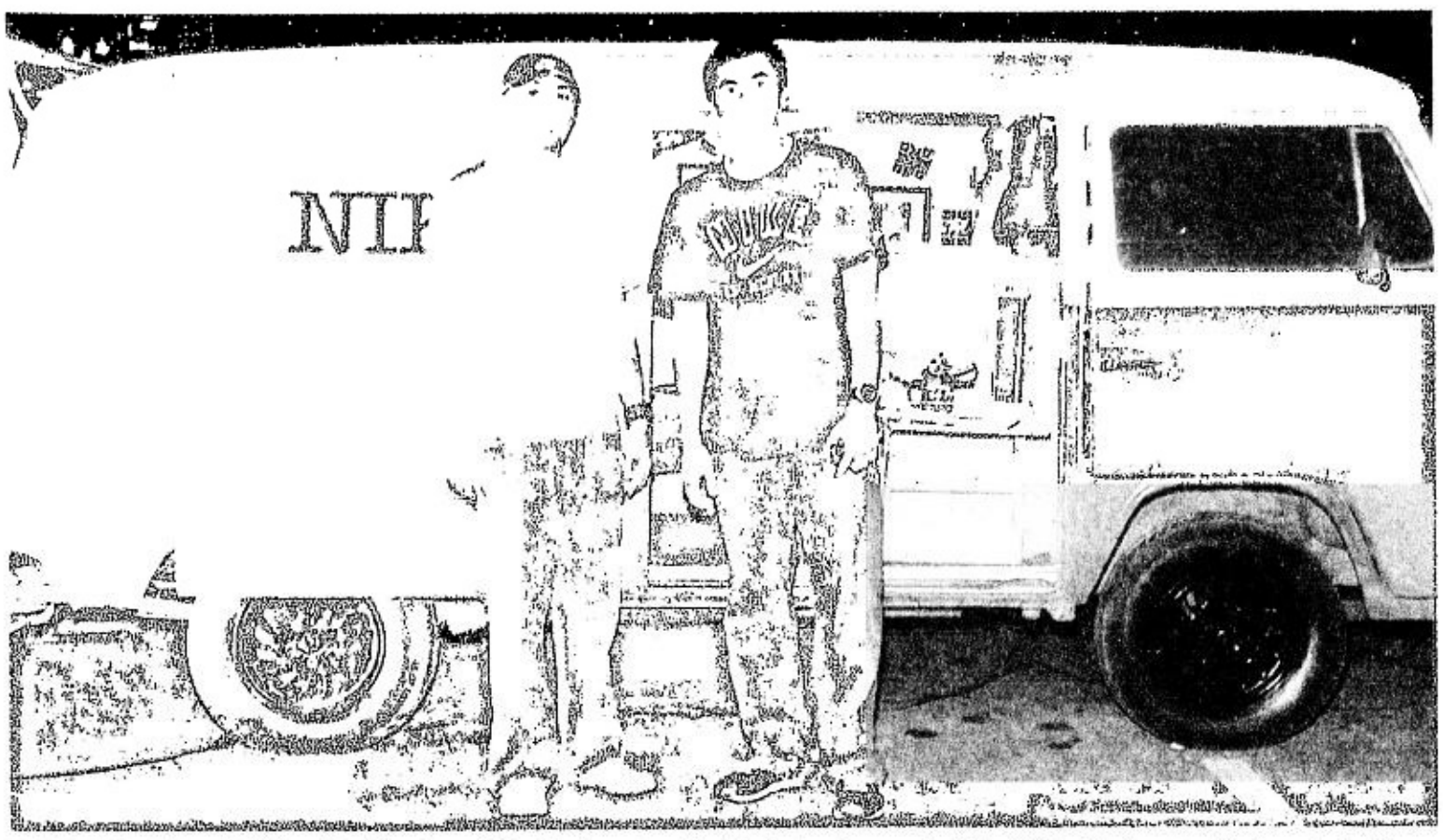
CATHY Brilliantes-Turvill invites stressed professionals to recharge through a spa in the workplace.

Turvill, who has a Ph.D. in organic chemistry, studied aromatherapy in Singapore and also heads Spa Essentials, a spa products company supplying essential oils to spas all over the world. His wife is the president of Spa Professionals International Development Center, the only internationally accredited spa school in the country. She finished the Executive Spa Development Course conducted by Cornell University in Singapore.

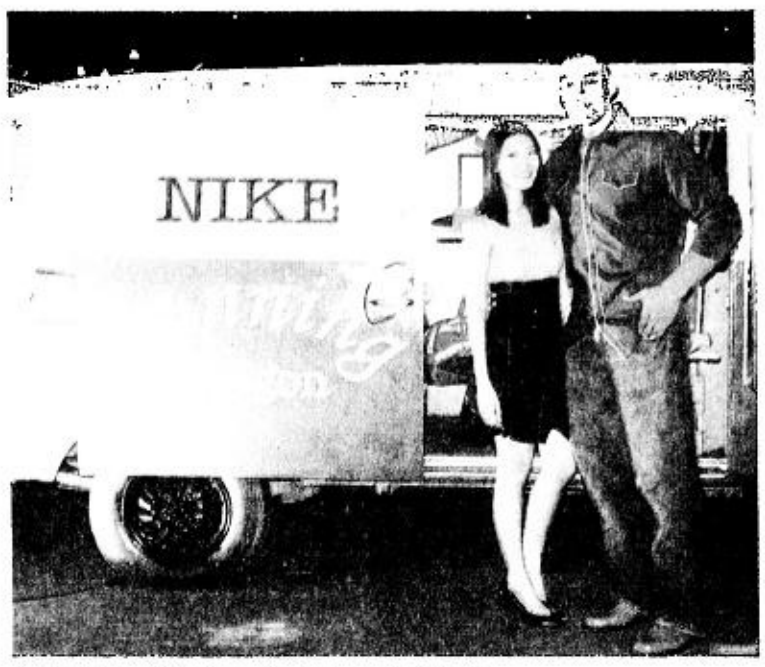
A sparty is ideal for bridal showers, birthdays and even company team-building seminars. The Turvills hold sparties for a minimum of 30 persons, at P1,200-P2,000 a head. Their packages may include a Spa Buffet, which is a choice of head-and-shoulder massage, foot spa and marma point massage; a food buffet; the full spa setup, with optional take-away gifts. Another package may also include belly dancing, qi gong, shibashi, yoga or harp performance.

Four massage therapists administer the marma point massage to guests. Marma points, explained Brillantes-Turvill, are the body's energy points. The body has 107 in all. The marma point massage is an ancient Indian form of Ayurvedic treatment that is said to rejuvenate the body. It removes energy blocks that are caused by stress and an unhealthy lifestyle. The ancient Indian army, she added, used this technique on their returning soldiers to heal them after they returned from battle.

"Don't you think," she asked, "this is something you can do instead of drinking too much coffee or Red Bull?"



TALK 'N' Text Phone Pals' Ren-Ren Ritualo and Mac Cardona stand beside the luminous, refurbished Nike Heritage van that created a stir.

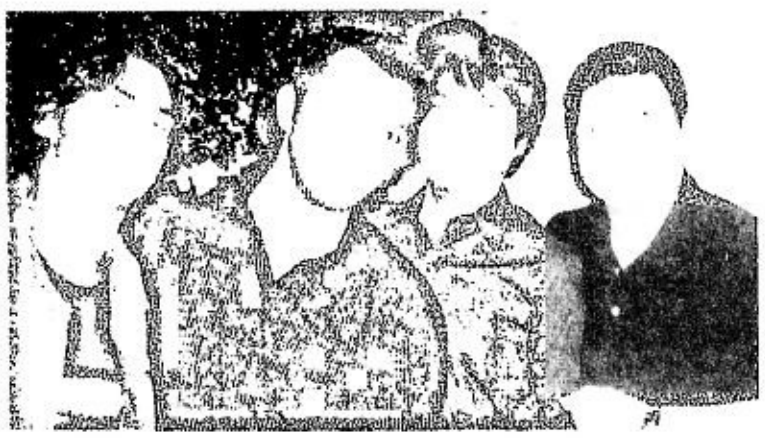


ANA Kalaw with Coca-Cola Tigers' Ali Peek

GORGEOUS models Rissa Mananquil Samson and Valerie de los Santos

BOOM Gonzales, UAAP commentator

Getting into a sporty holiday mood

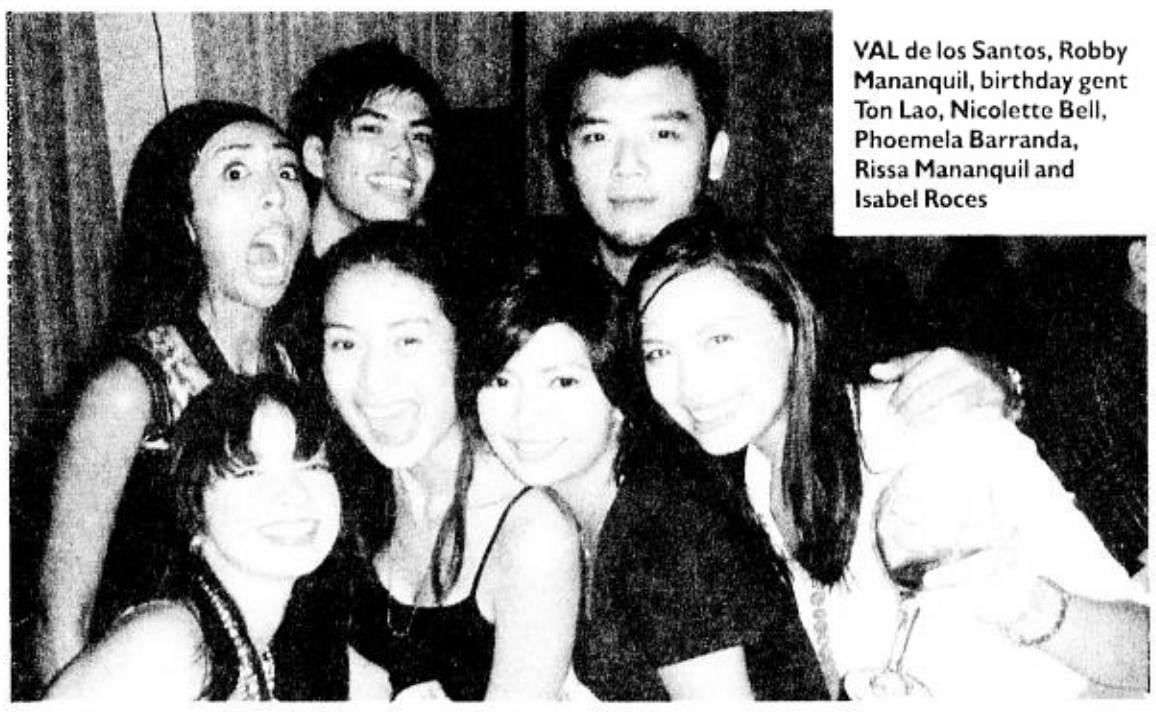


PAOLO Paraiso, Ton Lao, Miguel Pastor and Ben Chan

KAI Nakanishi with her man, Bryan Lim; and the organizer of the fun bash, Keren Pascual

GRACE Molina

FUN PACK: Bubbles Paraiso, Carlo Tadiar, Tonichi Nocom, Randy Ortiz, Phoemela Barranda and Paolo Paraiso



VAL de los Santos, Robby Mananquil, birthday gent Ton Lao, Nicolette Bell, Phoemela Barranda, Rissa Mananquil and Isabel Roces

NIKE IS DEFINITELY ON A roll, *palanggas*, with its latest campaign celebrating its rich heritage, and drawing from the 1970s iconic look inspired by running hero **Steve "Pre" Prefontaine.**

The brand's new collection features the hottest apparel and must-have sneakers, both for athletes and party people, *palanggas*. Cosmo Manille's social set were all decked out in Nike's Holiday 2006 Sport Culture line at the hottest nightspot in town, the Embassy Superclub.

All those present wearing Nike were given a special treat, with free entrance to the club's hot Sleepless event every Saturday evening. They included night owls **Erik Cua** of Embassy and Temple Bar, hot PR on the move **GP Reyes, Rovilson Fernandez, Michelle Pamintuan, Martin Pulgar**; and tall, hot athletes **Ali Peek, Mac Cardona, Jeffrey Cariaso** and **Ren-Ren Ritualo**; Green Archers' JV **Casio** and **Ty Tang**; Blue Eagles' **Macky Escalona** and **Yo Wichico**.

Nike's refurbished luminous Heritage Van, parked in front of the club, made a stir. We were all invited to check out the van and answer trivia questions for a chance to win awesome gifts from Nike during the draw at the end of the campaign.

Catch the Nike Running Wagon Nov. 5—ATC, Cortes de las Palmas; Nov. 9-10—UA&P Promenade B; Nov. 14—UP Palma Hall plus other hotspots in our town throughout the month!

Wear your authentic Nike sneakers or clothes or bring your Nike bag to Embassy's Sleepless Nov. 4 and 11 for free entrance. Just do it, *palanggas*.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Birthday bash

Metro Him's stylist—tall, good-looking **Ton Lao**—was given a super fun advance birthday bash by his close pals in the publishing and modeling industry, at the jumping-again Fiamma on Jupiter Street in Makati, *palanggas*.

An in-demand former model, Ton L. parlayed his innate sense of fashion and style into a flourishing career as stylist for ABS-CBN's Metro Him magazine, no less. He shifted careers from in front of the camera to behind it. The change still allows him to mingle with all his gang in the modeling and fashion world.

Clearly, from the crowd that joined Ton that Saturday evening for the celebration, he has kept old friends and made new ones.

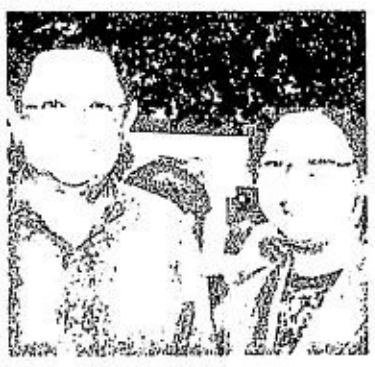
He clearly enjoyed himself as he circulated among his invitees that included PR guru, **Keren Pascual**, who organized the bash and sponsored the drinks that night, dahlings; Bench's multifaceted gentleman of substance **Ben Chan**, with fun architect **Miguel Pastor**; Suyen Corp. vice president, young and smart **Bryan Lim**, with his favorite gal **Kai Nakanishi**; Metro Him editor in chief, my *palangga*, **Carlo Tadiar**; Metro's associate editor **Stephanie Cabal**; managing editor **James Ong**; Metro Him's **Luis Carlo San Juan**; and **Paolo Trillo**, the handsome gent behind Fiamma.

Heading the catwalk pack were PMAP president **Rissa Samson**, gorgeous **Bubbles Paraiso, Wilma Doesnt, Antoinette Enciso Ocampo, Valerie de los Santos**, and **Nicolette Bell**, before she jetted off to start a new career as a stewardess. Also there were **Luke Jickain, Paolo Paraiso**, tall head-turner **Grace Molina, Baba Parma, Mikee Carrion** and **Bianca Valerio**.

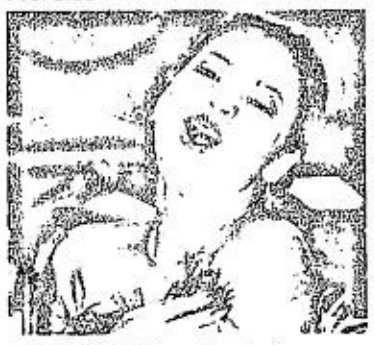
Top designers **Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Randy Ortiz** and **Tonichi Nocom**; and stunningly beautiful gals, talented actress **Iza Calzado** and television host **Phoemela Barranda** were there to greet the celebrator.

NIKE gals Wella Young and Monique Jumbang

TRANSIT Publications' Sandro Paredes and Sports TV's Jinno Rufino



SIA priority passenger Jaime Castro and marketing communications officer Clarissa Morelos



RACHELLE Gerodias delivers a soulful performance of an Italian aria.

Beautiful people, booze and Fiamma made the bash the smashing success it was, *palanggas*.

Shop and see Milan

Apres "Sabor de Barcelona," the food festival to celebrate Singapore Airlines' flight to Barcelona, SIA gathered again tons of travel enthusiasts for another affair to remember, *palanggas*.

The awesome, one-of-a-kind Shop Your Way to Milan promotion was launched at the Podium Lounge by SIA and The Podium, in cooperation with the Embassy of Italy in Manille. The promo coincides with the launch of SIA's thrice weekly flights to the fashionable city of Milan. SIA and SilkAir passengers from Manille, Cebu and Davao can conveniently connect on the same day to Milan from Singapore.

The Shop Your Way to Milan promotion will end with a grand raffle, with two winners jetting off to the fashionable city of Milan, dahlings. To win the wow tickets, SIA passengers only have to present their boarding passes, and shop or dine at The Podium for a minimum amount of P1,500 at any Boarding Pass Privileges Partners, seven days upon arrival in Manille.

On top of special discounts and privileges they will enjoy at The Podium, they get a chance to continue their shopping spree at Milan's world-famous Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, no less, dahlings.

For the launch, the Podium Lounge was gorgeously decorated in Italian colors, showing off the richness of Italian culture. Invitees were treated to loads of yummy Italian delicacies, plus one of my favorite drinks, the famous *bellini* made of Prosecco wines and pureed peaches. Without batting an eyelash, it became the drink of the night.

With soprano **Rachelle Gerodias** dishing out Puccini arias, and handsome Fil-Italian **Illac Diaz** as host, how could it be anything but a smashing success, *palanggas*?

The Shop Your Way to Milan promo is ongoing until Nov. 8, *palanggas*. For more info, log on to www.singaporeair.com/boarding-pass.

And for flight bookings and other info, call your travel agent, or SIA at 7578899 in Manille; 2326211 in Cebu; and 2245608 in Davao.

CATHY Garcia-Au, Aileen Clemente, Tessa de Guzman, Marilu Ngo, Queenie Panares-Borromeo, Mila Suarez, Joy Abrogar, Ella Salita, Dr. Andrea Gianvenuti, and Amsi Aldaya

AMARJIT Wasan of the ADB, Rachel Esguerra of SIA, and Terry Savellano of Travelex

TATJANA Bartoli

TOASTING the success of "Shop Your Way to Milan" with the divine *bellini*: Clinton Tan, GM of SIA; Dr. Mario Bartoli of the embassy of Italy; Rita Dy, SIA manager for marketing communications and services; Sin Wai Meng, president, Keppel Properties Inc.; Ian Mathay, The Podium mall manager; and Illac Diaz, event host

Never too late to eat right for healthy bones

Text and photos by Vangie Baga-Reyes

OSTEOPOROSIS CAN RUIN YOUR life.

Yes, it can possibly rob you of your independence, mobility and self-sufficiency.

Also known as brittle bones, osteoporosis is a debilitating disease that causes the bones, specially in the spine, hip and wrist, to become porous and break easily. The results: pain, loss of movement, inability to perform daily chores, and, in many cases, death.

The World Health Organization says osteoporosis is second only to cardiovascular disease as a global healthcare problem. The problem affects about one in three women and one in five men over age 50. It is increasing in significance as the world's population increases and lives longer.

But, bone density loss doesn't have any symptom that's why osteoporosis is called the "silent epidemic." People with osteoporosis may not know they have the disease until their bones become so weak that a sudden strain, bump, or fall causes a hip fracture or a vertebra to collapse.

Though osteoporosis affects millions of people, awareness of the disease is still low. Doctors often fail to diagnose it, diagnostic equipment are scarce or not used to their full potential, and treatment is not always accessible.

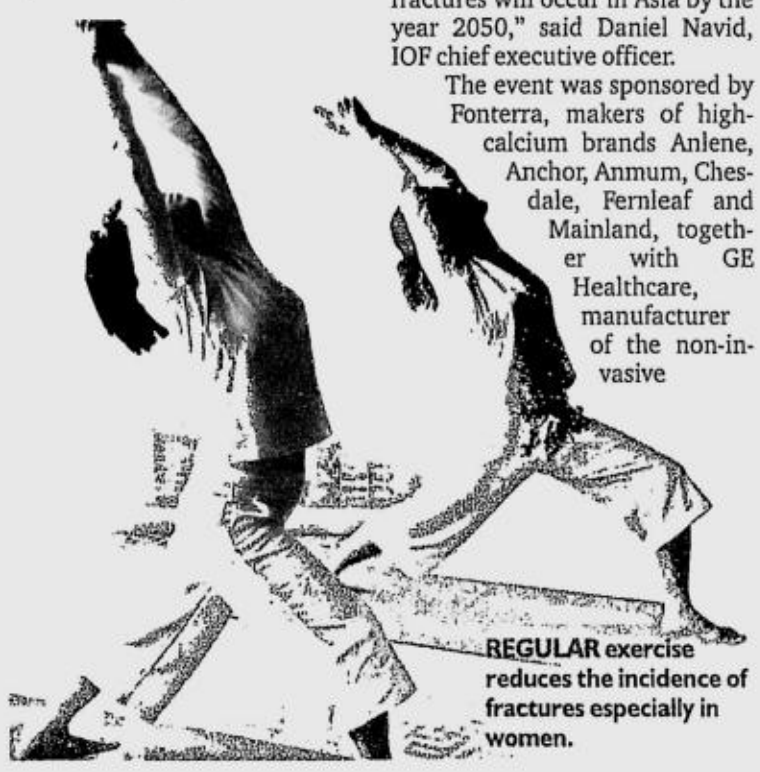
Motivational

The International Osteoporosis Foundation, which aims to increase alertness and understanding of the disease worldwide, marked World Osteoporosis Day by holding a conference in Hong Kong attended by physicians, IOF supporters and media practitioners from Southeast Asia.

This year, WOD focused on food and nutrition in building and maintaining strong bones with the theme "Bone Appetit."

"It is projected that more than 50 percent of all osteoporotic hip fractures will occur in Asia by the year 2050," said Daniel Navid, IOF chief executive officer.

The event was sponsored by Fonterra, makers of high-calcium brands Anlene, Anchor, Anmum, Chesdale, Fernleaf and Mainland, together with GE Healthcare, manufacturer of the non-invasive Achilles bone scanner.



REGULAR exercise reduces the incidence of fractures especially in women.

With the theme 'Bone Appetit,' World Osteoporosis Day focused on how food and nutrition can prevent the debilitating disease

Navid said bone care required a simple combination of exercise, healthy lifestyle and a diet rich in essential bone nutrients.

"Although genetic factors determine whether an individual is at heightened risk of osteoporosis, lifestyle factors, such as good nutrition and exercise, play a key role in building bone during youth, and helping to slow down bone loss in adults and the elderly," said Pradeep Pant, managing director of Fonterra Brands in Asia.

IOF urges people to recognize the role of food and nutrition in building and maintaining strong bones. It points out bone undergoes continuous remodeling and an adequate supply of nutrients is needed for this process.

Healthy bones require calcium and other vitamins. Fortified dairy products, like Fonterra's Anlene, are excellent sources of calcium and many other nutrients essential for bone health.

Anlene has the new Phyto K Regenerative Formula that helps ensure that essential bone nutrients are effectively absorbed and locked in to bones. The formulation contains calcium, Vitamin D, magnesium, zinc, protein and Vitamin K. Independent clinical tests showed it could prevent bone loss.

Vitamin D ensures the effective absorption of bone nutrients, while Vitamin K activates special proteins that help lock in nutrients deep within the bone structure.

PARTNERS in fight against osteoporosis. Jim Evans, GE Healthcare director for Achilles sales and operations; Daniel Navid, IOF chief executive officer; and Pradeep Pant, Fonterra brands regional managing director for Asia

GE HEALTHCARE'S more convenient and non-invasive Achilles bone scanner

BONES need nutrients as they undergo continuous remodeling.

"Anlene is mindful of the stress brought about by osteoporosis. That is why it is committing $150 million to bone health over the next three years in the form of research, education, and new products to fight the growing problem of deteriorating bone health," said Pant.

Asia launch

IOF and Anlene also launched their awareness campaign in different regions. In the Philippines, for instance, nearly 20,000 people danced for healthy bones in the Mall of Asia led by entertainment personalities Carmi Martin and Roderick Paulate. The "Keep on Moving with Dick and Carmi" mall tour will continue on Nov. 5 in Ayala Center Cebu. A nationwide Ballroom Dance Competition will be held in November and December (call 6881696).

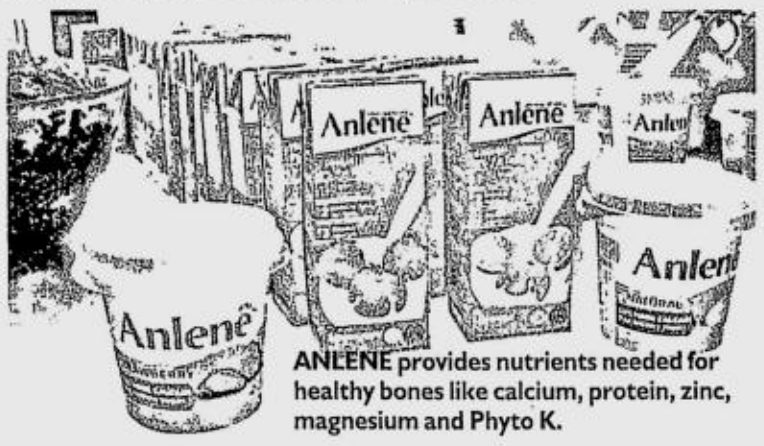
Anlene organized an interactive yoga in Singapore while over 10,000 people participated in a marathon in Vietnam. Similar activities were held in Guangzhou, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka.

"IOF (focuses on) lifestyle," said Navid. "We tell people you can do something about it. Don't be a victim. Take responsibility. Nobody cares about your bone health as much as you do. And there are certain steps that you can take to reduce the risk. It is important to understand that there are risk factors that are outside your control like family history, menopause, previous fracture, but there are certain steps like exercise, eating properly, not smoking that you can do something about.

"Of course, during childhood and adolescence, good nutrition will help to ensure attainment of maximal peak bone mass, and thereby reduce vulnerability to osteoporosis. However, the phrase 'never too late' is highly appropriate for bones—a healthy diet is extremely important for preserving bone mass and strength both in younger and older adults, even in those who have already had a fracture. Good nutrition speeds up and aids in recovery, and helps prevent further fractures."

To know more about osteoporosis and IOF global campaign, log on to www.iofbonehealth.org.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



ANLENE provides nutrients needed for healthy bones like calcium, protein, zinc, magnesium and Phyto K.

Quitting smoking doesn't have to mean weight gain

WELL AND GOOD
Tina Juan

Part one

IF YOU HAVE EVER TRIED TO STOP smoking, you know how difficult it is. As someone once said, "It's easy to quit smoking. I've done it a hundred times."

Nicotine is one of the most addictive substances. Experts say it is just as, or may be more, addictive than heroin or cocaine.

Smokers are scared to quit because of nicotine withdrawal symptoms like intense cravings, anxiety and depression. Another reason is the fear of gaining weight. This is especially true for women.

Theories

A study found that two-thirds of women who quit smoking during pregnancy took up the habit again. This might have a lot to do with weight concerns.

The average weight gain after quitting has been estimated at 5-10 lbs. Why does this happen? There are several theories.

One reason may be that people substitute eating for the oral habit of smoking. Munching throughout the day fulfills the need to have something in the mouth.

Food and nicotine affect the same area of the brain associated with dopamine, a brain chemical related to pleasure. The smoker may be unconsciously trying to replace the pleasure of smoking with the pleasure of food.

Eating may also be used as a coping mechanism to relieve the stress of quitting.

The second theory is that, since smoking dulls the senses of smell and taste, appetite increases because food actually tastes better. In the initial weeks of quitting, people report an increase in appetite. If they have a relapse and return to smoking, they experience a reduction in appetite.

The third theory is controversial because of conflicting research. Some studies suggest that smoking raises the metabolic rate anywhere from two to 20 percent. One study estimated it at 100-200 calories a day.

So, when you quit smoking, your metabolism returns to what it really should be and you can gain weight if you continue to have the same number of calories.

However, other studies show that the increase in metabolism is only temporary—just for a short period after a cigarette.

This may explain the findings of a study that followed the weight of young adult nonsmokers, smokers, and ex-smokers. After seven years, there was no significant difference in their weights.

Yet other studies found that smokers weighed less than nonsmokers. Meanwhile, other researches found only minor differences in the resting metabolic rates of smokers and nonsmokers.

The fourth possible reason is that smokers typically have a cigarette at the end of a meal. Smoking may be a substitute to a second serving or a high-calorie dessert. When the cigarette is no longer available, people trying to quit might give in to additional calories.

Whatever the real reasons are for the added pounds when they quit, smokers shouldn't be that afraid to stop because they can head off the expected weight gain by making some lifestyle changes. More on that next week.

Some people believe it is better to continue smoking and stay thin because gaining weight also has health risks. However, a 1992 study calculated that an individual would have to gain 75-100 lbs to approximate the risks of smoking.

Nicotine increases the levels of the stress hormone cortisol, causing fat to be distributed in the upper body and abdominal area or in an "apple" shape. This type of fat is highly associated with an increased risk of heart disease, diabetes, and early death.

For women only

A University of Memphis study found that women who quit smoking just as their menstrual period started gained only half a pound compared to women who quit during their premenstrual period (they gained four pounds) even though they consumed the same number of calories.

Researchers believed the initial gain was probably due to water retention because after the two-week study period, women tended to gain the same number of pounds and the weight difference between the two groups narrowed.

However, since women are more likely to go back to smoking because of the fear of gaining weight, researchers suggest the findings might help keep women from relapsing during their first month of quitting.

Attitude

A study of women smokers deeply concerned about gaining weight when they quit found that those who received psychological counseling (cognitive-behavioral therapy) to "accept" a modest weight gain in return for the benefits of quitting, were more successful at stopping after one year and more successful at not gaining as much weight.

They gained only six pounds compared to the group given weight control counseling (12 lbs) and the group that got into a social support system (17 lbs).

It seems that the less obsessed you are with gaining weight, the less weight you gain.

The Art of Living will hold a six-day seminar on breathing to relieve stress Nov. 6-11 and Nov. 27-Dec. 2. Cost is P3,000. Call Nameeta at 0917-7910190 or e-mail aol_philippines@yahoo.com.

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info.

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What is the best way to prevent osteoporosis?

Osteoporosis is a progressive deterioration of bone mass and bone quality. It is one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality among the elderly. It is often not detected until a sudden strain or fall causes fractures of the wrist, hip and vertebral spine (manifested by severe back pain or stooped posture). Building strong bones early on during childhood and adolescence is the best defense against osteoporosis. It can be achieved by taking a balanced diet rich in calcium (milk, cheese, broccoli) and Vitamin D (egg yolks, saltwater fish and liver) with adequate exposure to sunlight (2-3x week). Such practices carried on to adulthood coupled with weight-bearing and resistance-training exercises as well as adapting a healthy lifestyle: no smoking or excessive alcohol intake, ensures strong bone. After the age of 50, consulting a doctor, undergoing a bone density test and taking medications especially for post-menopausal women (bisphosphonates, estrogen therapy and selective estrogen receptor modulators) are advised

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our medical service provider from Pampanga. Dr. Renato D. Lipana Jr. He is an Orthopedic Surgeon that specializes on degenerative, traumatic, infective, and congenital disorders of the spine. He took his specialization training for Orthopedic Surgery at Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center in 2004 and later had his fellowship training in Spine Surgery at the National University Hospital in Singapore. He is a diplomate of the Philippine Board of Orthopaedics and a fellow of the Philippine Orthopaedic Association. MEDICARD members may visit him for consultation services at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Medical Center (San Fernando, Pampanga) during Thursdays from 1pm to 3pm.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquirya medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard

CLIP & SAVE

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Split leg lean back

This exercise stretches the front of the hips and thighs and the calves.

Equipment:

None

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with legs apart in a split stance. Both feet should be facing forward; arms in front at shoulder level.
2. Bend the knee of the leg behind and lean backward at the hips.
3. Hold the stretch for the desired length of time.

Performance tips:

1. Narrow or widen your stance by adjusting your back leg if you feel you need less or more of a stretch.
2. Feel as if someone is pulling you forward by your hands while you are leaning backwards.
3. Continue breathing evenly and deeply.

Repetitions

Hold the stretch for at least 10 seconds.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Digital filmmakers challenge critic

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Compiled by Marinel R. Cruz
(First of two parts)

THE ESSAY OF GERMAN MEDIA CRITIC Tilman Baumgärtel on the disadvantages of digital filmmaking, which came out last month in INQUIRER Entertainment, has sparked a lively discussion among filmmakers involved in the medium.

Baumgärtel, in the story titled "The Downside of Digital" (9/24/06), contended that while digital movies are currently regarded as a way of out the local film industry's "usual fare of often formulaic productions," it might "actually be bad for Philippine cinema."

The critic, who is also a professor at the UP Film Institute, said among other things that digital films "just don't look as good as 35-millimeter." He warned that the technology "encourages sloppiness" and "breeds its own mannerisms." He warned that this could "lower the audiovisual standards."

In the long run, Baumgärtel argued, digital films would "make Philippine movies less competitive internationally." He proceeded to point out lapses and errors in some of the digital films he had watched.

Director Jon Red, in another essay ("The Maker, Not the Medium" 9/28/06), countered: "The digital medium should not be blamed for filmmaker's faults. It's the wrong practices in digital moviemaking that should be addressed."

Red admonished Baumgärtel to direct his comments "to the hand that pulls the trigger, not the gun."

INQUIRER Entertainment sought the reactions of other digital filmmakers.

ELLEN ONGKEKO-MARFIL ("Mga Pusang Gala," "Angels," chair, Erasto Productions; board member, Independent Filmmakers Cooperative of the Philippines (IFCP))

Tilman Baumgärtel did say he was being a spoilsport and a devil's advocate to the current euphoria over digital movies... Let his criticisms be a challenge to all.

(On the view that digital simply does not look as good as 35-millimeter:) Digital is not static. It is evolving. Both the technology and the practitioners can only get better. Mastery comes with practice, opportunity, sustainability.

(On actors and other personnel being "interns":) A major producer for a digital project found my request for 10 shooting days too long. She said, "Please, I don't want an art film!" Not all major producers are like her. But yes, digital filmmaking could be bad for Philippine cinema, not so much for form—because I am sure it will improve—but [for the possibility that] the same attitudes and sensibilities [may continue to] dominate. The victory of digital cinema for now is presenting new sensibilities to the public via such films as "Maximo," "Kalimugtong," "Kubrador" and many others.

(On "digital coming to mean as art house cinema—without art house cinemas":) Now, there's the challenge! For all stakeholders—fimmakers, educators, cultural institutions—who aim to make good films but who should make it a sustainable business for all, artists included, to come together to build the infrastructures necessary to develop such an alternative circuit. I do not even want to call it arthouse circuit—it sounds so elitist, so alienating—just an alternative circuit for digital cinema to develop its artists and its audience, and [eventually] boost the industry itself.

DIGITAL/ D6

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FEAST 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:40	THE BANQUET 1:55 / 4:30 / 7:05 / 9:40	TILL I MET YOU 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	
THE DEPARTED 12:10 / 3:20 / 6:30 / 9:40	TXT 1:50 / 7:10 THE GUARDIAN 4:20 / 9:40	WORLD TRADE CENTER 1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50	THE PRESTIGE 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00

MALL 5

THE PRESTIGE 1.25 / 2.15 / 5.05 / 7.55	TILL I MET YOU 12:10 03 / 1:45 / 4:00 / 5:15 / 8.30	WORLD TRADE CENTER 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
FEAST 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	THE GRUDGE 2 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40	DOLBY DIGITAL THX SDDS

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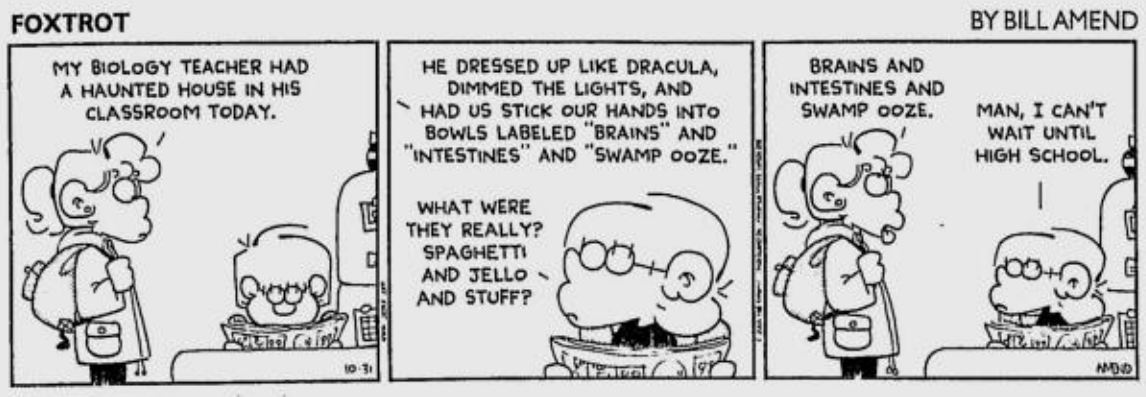
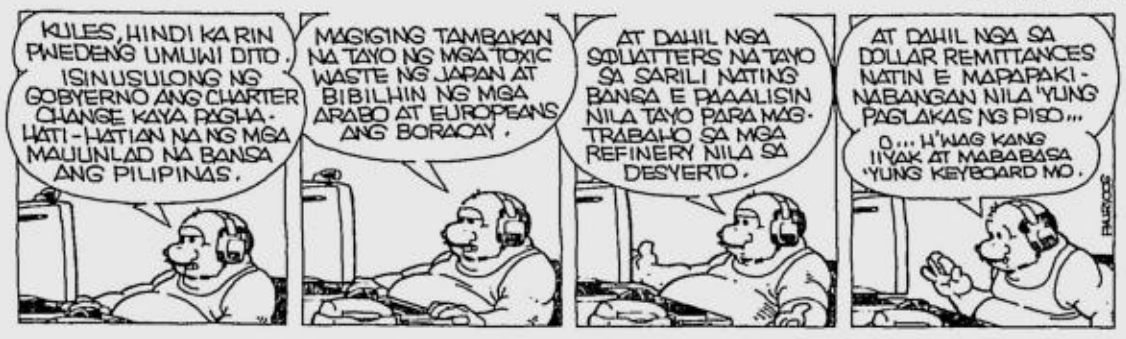


A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR



MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY
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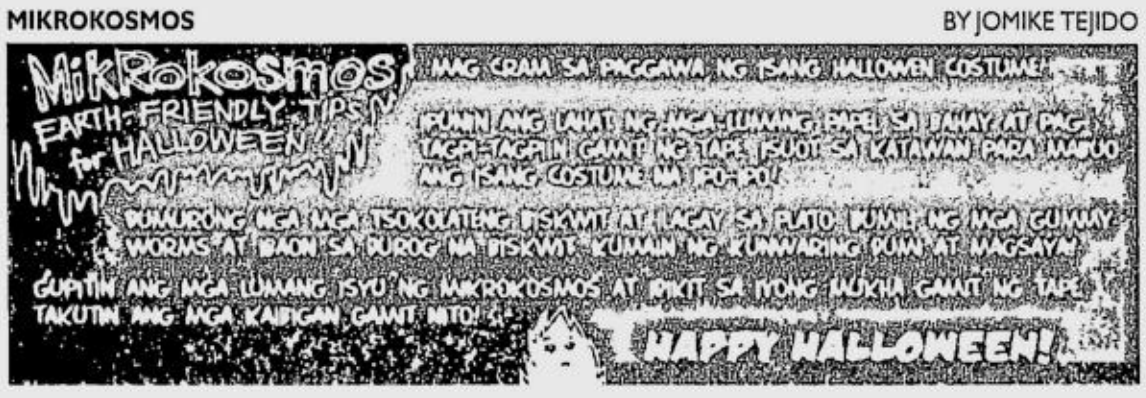

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BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

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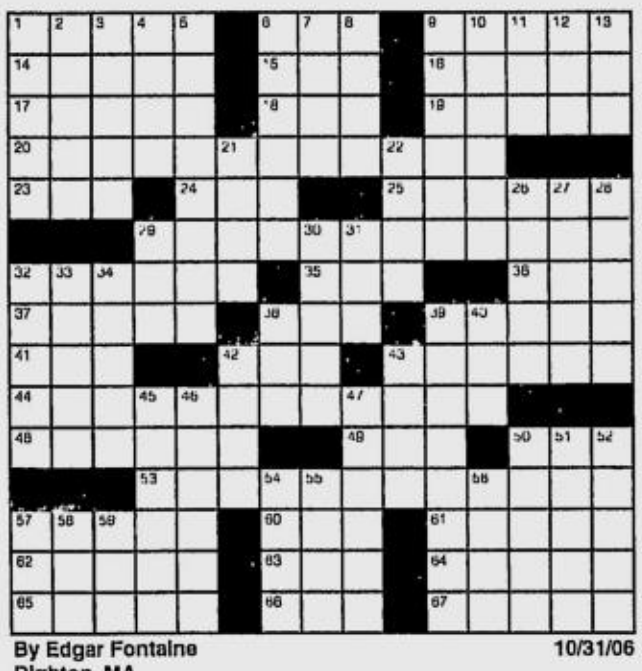
BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Edgar Fontaine
Dighton, MA
10/31/06

ACROSS
1 Port of Iraq
6 Black shade
9 Severe
14 Disney's Little Mermaid
15 Lyric poem
16 Forearm bones
17 Baseball teams
18 Lady lobster
19 Wanders
20 Halloween light
23 Sawbuck tenth
24 Darling or Guidry
25 One reindeer
29 Halloween venue
32 Spring harbingers
35 Early auto
36 Hrs. in Salt Lake
37 Fencing weapons
38 Halloween hoot
39 Lower in spirits
41 Med. printout
42 Up to now
43 City in the San Joaquin Valley
44 Monstrous Halloween costume
48 Rode the bench
49 Is no longer?
50 You bet!
53 Halloween threat
57 Diving acronym
60 In what way?
61 In a slow tempo
62 Of hearing
63 I've got it!
64 Greeter's greeting
65 George of "Cheers"
66 Layer
67 Austere

DOWN
1 Plucker's instrument
2 One born in early April
3 Inasmuch as
4 Noisome smell
5 Losers
6 Composer Strauss
7 First garden
8 Circus structure
9 Victory cheer
10 "The Tempest" king
11 Cellular letters
12 Snead or Peckinpah
13 Men
21 Groza and Gehrig
22 Caribbean taro
26 Soil component
27 City near Gelsenkirchen
28 Rocket type
29 Giddyapi
30 Lopes along
31 Want ad abbr.
32 Coral colonies
33 La Scala production
34 Fathered
38 Golfer Hogan
39 Stiff hairs
40 Writer Deighton
42 Abominable snowman
43 Carolina cape
45 So-so
46 TV journalist Charles
47 Bilateral
50 Busybody
51 Food consumer
52 Baby bird?
54 Gent
55 First chancellor of reunified Germany
56 Tear
57 Logger's tool
58 Theater signal
59 Coffee vessel

Monday's Puzzle Solved

W	A	S		C	N	B	C		A	L	A	M	O	S
A	L	I		A	I	R	Y		D	E	L	A	N	O
G	A	G		S	T	A	C		D	A	B	N	E	Y
		N	A	E		C	L	A	S	S	I	C		
P	E	A	R	L		T	E	T		E	N	O	L	S
E	L	L	I	O	T		B	E	S		O	M	O	O
R	I	P	S	A	W		O	A	T	S		P	F	C
	T	H	E	D	Y	N	A	M	I	C	D	U	O	
T	I	O		S	L	O	T		R	A	I	T	T	S
I	S	N	T		A	R	M		S	T	R	E	E	T
S	T	E	W	S		M	O	A		T	E	R	N	S
		S	E	A	L	A	B	S		E	R	G		
G	A	U	L	L	E		I	T	E	R		I	R	A
O	L	I	V	E	S		L	I	N	E		R	E	N
A	T	T	E	S	T		E	N	G	R		L	O	T

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HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're observant; you research well and pay attention to details. Even though you act sweet and gentle, you have a determined, warriorlike attitude about your passions. (This drive allows you to accomplish a lot.) You constantly seek a balance between your need to achieve and your need to please. Work hard to construct something important this year.
Birthdate of: Deidre Hall, actress; Dan Rather, journalist; Peter Jackson, director

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have a strong desire now to become a better person. Buy some self-help books or sign up for a course. (Act on this urge while you have it.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Five planets now oppose your sign. This is why you're so absorbed with ex-partners and close friendships. You can finish a lot of old business now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): A gaggle of planets is currently urging you to get better organized in your life. Do what you can to make this happen. Get yourself the right tools and support system to do a good job.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Vacation plans look sweet! Many of you are in love now or are absorbed with romantic affairs. Others are spending increased time working or playing with children.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your focus continues to be on home, family and real estate matters. Family discussions are significant now. This is a good time for redecorating or renovating projects.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's a busy pace this month because short trips, errands and conversations with siblings and relatives jam your schedule. You have a lot to do. (Make lists.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Seek out private time just for yourself now. You'll appreciate this if you give this to yourself. Work alone or behind the scenes as well. (You need privacy.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is an extremely empowering time for you because five planets are in your sign. (The Sun, Mercury, Venus, Mars and Jupiter.) Make the most of this. Go after what you want!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You definitely need more privacy and time to be by yourself. Start to map out how you want your new year (after your birthday) to unfold.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your popularity rating is off the charts. Everyone wants to see your face. This is a busy, social time for you. (Enjoy the company of others.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Discussions with parents, bosses and VIPs are significant now. People look up to you and need your guidance about something. Others easily respect you this month.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Travel, education, publishing and the media are prime concerns for you now. You want more out of life! You're hungry for adventure. Therefore, return to school or book a trip.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

	2		6	7		9		
6			3		8			
				1				3
2	7						6	
5		1				4		8
	9						3	5
4				3				
			2		6			1
		5		8	1		7	

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/31

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	6	7	1	4	5	8	2	3
8	4	1	7	3	2	9	6	5
2	3	5	6	8	9	4	7	1
7	5	3	4	6	8	2	1	9
4	8	9	2	5	1	7	3	6
6	1	2	3	9	7	5	4	8
1	9	4	8	2	6	3	5	7
3	7	8	5	1	4	6	9	2
5	2	6	9	7	3	1	8	4

Difficulty Level ★

Disquieting amalgam of guilt, greed and passion

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

ZIYI ZHANG'S LATEST STARRER, "THE BANquet," casts her as Empress Wan, who's mourning for her husband, the Emperor of China. Instinctively, she doesn't weep for long.

Always the soul of pragmatism, she goes to the new monarch, her brother-in-law, and seeks to effect a *modus vivendi* with him—even if most everyone in the whole kingdom believes that he did the old ruler in.

Shades of "Hamlet?" No merely coy references here and there, "The Banquet" is director **Feng Xiaogang's** forthright Asian version of **Shakespeare's** classic.

Not that there's anything *sub rosa* in that. After all, the revered **Akira Kurosawa** turned "MacBeth" into his own "Ran," to great acclaim.

Here, however, the huzzahs are more muted, principally because Feng's artistry doesn't match Kurosawa's.

The requisite visual opulence and drama are present—in heaps—but the production is too slow and self-consciously arty to fully engage the viewer's attention and involvement.

For her part, Ziyi Zhang acts up a storm, and she's achingly lovely to behold. But she's simply too young to imbue the role of the empress the thespic weight, gravity and resonance it requires.

These flaws aside, "The Banquet" is visually ravishing, some of its sequences are dramatically compelling, and its production design is a marvel of imagination, exotic grandeur and authentic detail.

It's faithful to the period's iconography, with its court attendants' garments and hairstyles calling to mind the antique porcelain statues from imperial times—as well as the ceramic armies of Xian.

As for the "Hamlet" story, Feng's film embellishes on it by making its empress the childhood playmate and not the mother of the Crown Prince. Thus, the empress protects the prince from his murderous uncle not out of maternal love, but with a decidedly more passionate motivation.

And the movie's finale is even bloodier than its counterpart in Shakespeare's original, with multiple royal personages being stabbed or poisoned all over the place.

In the end, only the empress remains—but not for long. Before the final fade, another tragic event occurs, this time perpetrated by an unknown hand. Thus does the film suggest that, when royals make deceit and murder fashionable, even the *hoi poloi* want a piece of the action!

On point of performance, the film's male thespians are paced, not by the actor who plays the Crown Prince, but by **Ge You**, who is cast as his imperial uncle.

He may not cut as dashing a figure as the prince, but he seethes with a disquieting amalgam of guilt, greed and passion that's unnerving to behold.

'A Good Year'

Hopes are high for the upcoming feel-good movie "A Good Year" because it stars Oscar winner **Russel Crowe**, and is directed by the estimable **Ridley Scott**. While Scott is better known for his crackerjack auctioners, he's also megged charmers like "Someone to Watch Over Me" and "Thelma and Louise."

In "A Good Year," Crowe plays a whiz-bang investment banker who moves to Provence, France, to sell a small vineyard he has inherited from his late uncle, Henry (**Albert Finney**). He reluctantly settles into what ultimately becomes an intoxicating new chapter in his existence, as he comes to realize that life is meant, not to be gulped down to the dregs, but to be savored.

'Happy Feet'

George Miller, the director of the hit animated feature "Happy Feet," thought up the movie's story about an Emperor penguin who happens to be a great tap dancer after watching a number of documentaries on the wildlife of the Antarctic.

He shares, "Penguins live such extraordinary lives, richly allegorical in terms of how we conduct ourselves as humans."

"Happy Feet" follows a young penguin, Mumble, through childhood and young adulthood, as he endures all sorts of tests to find his rightful place in the world.

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1	GRUDGE 2 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35 PG-13
2	OPEN SEASON 2:00, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 10:55 G
3	THE PRESTIGE 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:00 R-13
4	WORLD TRADE CENTER 12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:00 PG-13

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 THE PRESTIGE MTRCB R-13 1.00, 4.00, 7.00, 10.00
2 OPEN SEASON MTRCB GP 1.05, 3.15, 5.30, 7.45, 10.00
3 THE GRUDGE 2 MTRCB PG-13 2.30, 4.50, 7.10, 9.30
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER MTRCB PG-13 1.40, 4.30, 7.15, 10.00
PREMIERE THEATRE: THE BANQUET MTRCB PG-13 1.15, 3.55, 6.35, 9.30
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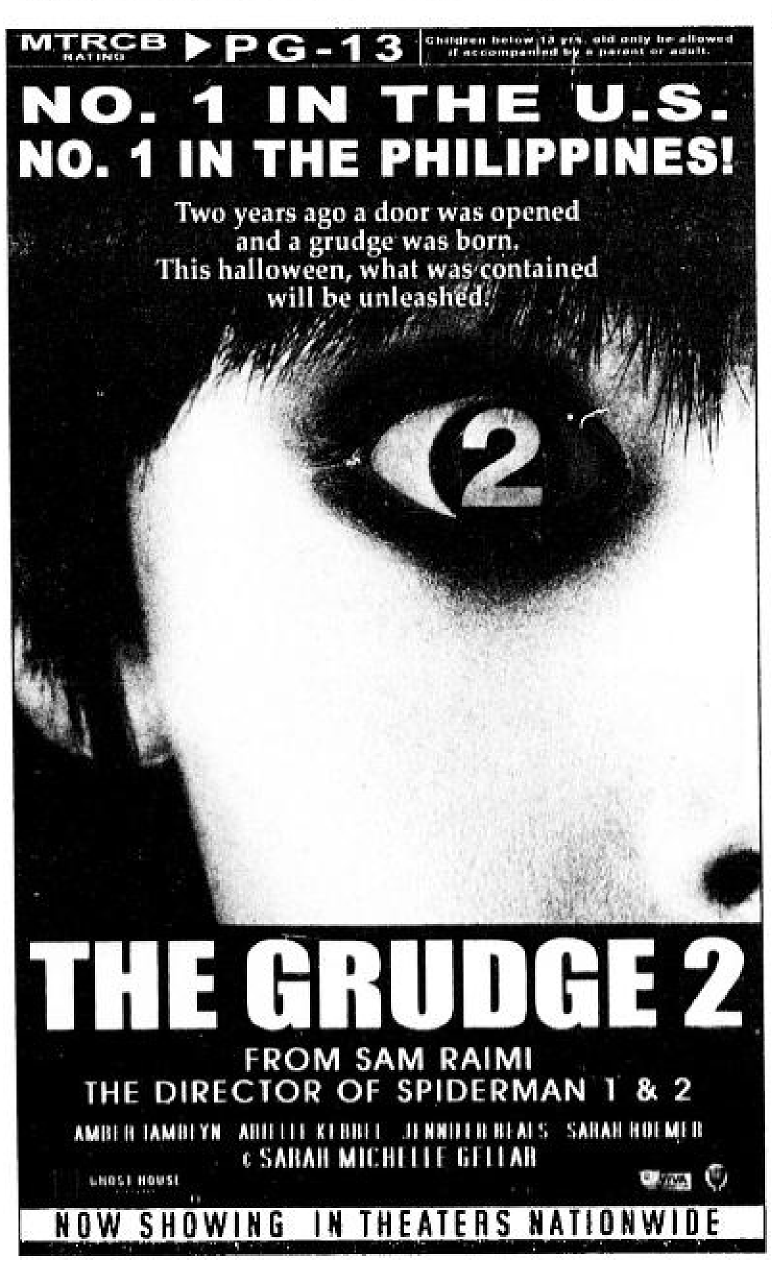

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SM CINEMA (Megamall)
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
PREMIERE: THE BANQUET

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE PRESTIGE
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE

Starmall (Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) OPEN SEASON
5 PULSE

Metropolis Star (ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433894
www.clickfilecity.com.ph
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 OPEN SEASON
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TXT

THEATRES
1 THE DEPARTED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5211
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest Festival Cinemas (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 THE GRUDGE - 2
2 THE DEPARTED
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 THE PRESTIGE
5 OPEN SEASON
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 TILL I MET YOU
8 THE BANQUET
9 FEAST
10 TXT

Blue Wave Marikina
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) OPEN SEASON
2 (DOLBY) FEAST
3 (DOLBY) WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 (DOLBY) TILL I MET YOU

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 THE GRUDGE - 2
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 OPEN SEASON
5 FEAST

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 PULSE
4 BARANG

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TXT

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4440346)
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 OPEN SEASON

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5003 to 03
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE GRUDGE - 2
4 TILL I MET YOU

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237 7007
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT

Eastwood Cinemas
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE PRESTIGE
4 THE GRUDGE - 2

CINEMA 2000 Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 OPEN SEASON
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Binan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE BREED
4 TXT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 THE DEPARTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT

Lianas Cinema (Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 BARANG
2 TILL I MET YOU

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.3276
1 PULSE
2 GAWIN SA DILIM
3 HUNGER FOR LOVE
4 TILL I MET YOU

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 HALIMUYAK
3 BARANG
4 TXT
5 OPEN SEASON

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 OPEN SEASON
3 FLY BOYS
4 THE DEPARTED

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

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OPEN SEASON IN 3D
12:30PM 2:30PM 6:00PM 8:00PM 10:00PM
Admission Price- P350
1 THE BANQUET
2 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
3 THE PRESTIGE
4 THE GRUDGE 2
5 OPEN SEASON
6 TXT
PREMIERE CINEMA
TILL I MET YOU
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
RESERVED
CENTERSTAGE
WORLD TRADE CENTER

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 THE GUARDIAN
12:15PM 12:45PM 3:30PM 6:15PM 8:35PM 9:00PM
2 THE BANQUET
12:00PM 12:30PM 2:45PM 5:00PM 7:15PM 9:20PM 9:30PM
3 THE PRESTIGE
12:20PM 12:40PM 3:15PM 5:50PM 8:00PM 8:25PM
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
11:00PM 11:10PM 1:30PM 3:50PM 6:10PM 8:15PM 8:30PM
5 OPEN SEASON
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 THE PRESTIGE
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
10 FEAST
11 TXT
12 THE GRUDGE 2

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 OPEN SEASON
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER

PODIUM
CINEMA 1
WORLD TRADE CENTER
CINEMA 2
THE PRESTIGE
633-8976

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 THE GRUDGE
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 OPEN SEASON
6 THE PRESTIGE
7 FEAST
8 THE GUARDIAN
9 TXT
10 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
11 THE DEPARTED
12 THE BANQUET

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 THE PRESTIGE
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TXT
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 FEAST
7 THE BANQUET
8 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
9 OPEN SEASON
10 THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE GRUDGE 2

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 THE PRESTIGE
3 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
4 OPEN SEASON
5 WORLD TRADE CENTER
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 ANNAPOLIS
2 THE BANQUET
3 FEAST
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 THE GRUDGE 2
6 BARANG
7 THE PRESTIGE
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 TXT
10 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
11 THE GUARDIAN
12 OPEN SEASON

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 STICK IT
3 BARANG
4 TXT
5 OPEN SEASON
6 THE GRUDGE 2
7 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
8 THE GUARDIAN
9 WORLD TRADE CENTER
10 TILL I MET YOU
11 THE BANQUET
12 FEAST

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE PRESTIGE
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 FEAST
6 TXT
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 OPEN SEASON
9 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE PRESTIGE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 OPEN SEASON

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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 TXT
5 THE PRESTIGE
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 WORLD TRADE CENTER
8 OPEN SEASON

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 OPEN SEASON
2 THE PRESTIGE
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 TILL I MET YOU
5 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
6 TXT

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 OPEN SEASON
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 THE GUARDIAN

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 THE DEPARTED
2 OPEN SEASON
3 FLY BOYS
4 TXT

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 TXT
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 THE PRESTIGE
5 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LIPA
1 THE BREED
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE DEPARTED
4 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 OPEN SEASON
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 WICKER MAN
4 THE DEPARTED

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 FLY BOYS

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3100
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 THE BANQUET

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 THE BREED
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 OCTOBER FRIGHT FEST
5 PULSE
6 THE DEPARTED
7 TILL I MET YOU
8 THE GRUDGE 2

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 RESERVED
3 THE BREED
4 OPEN SEASON
5 THE GUARDIAN
6 STEP UP
7 RESERVED
8 PULSE

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 PULSE
5 STEP UP
6 THE GUARDIAN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 THE DEPARTED
2 OPEN SEASON
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 FLY BOYS

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•SM MALL OF ASIA infront of Cinema 4 (0922-8191468)
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GALLERIA • 632-8116

1 THE BANQUET • THX
1:20 4:00
2 THE PRESTIGE
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
3 THE DEPARTED
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
4 OPEN SEASON
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
5 THE GRUDGE 2
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
7 FEAST
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
8 TXT
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
9 THE GUARDIAN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
10 TILL I MET YOU
12:25 2:45 5:05 7:25 9:45

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE GRUDGE 2
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 OPEN SEASON
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
3 TXT
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 TILL I MET YOU
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50
5 WORLD TRADE CENTER
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
6 FEAST
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
7 THE PRESTIGE
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

METRO EAST 882-8193 • 882-8199

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00
2 THE GRUDGE 2
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10
3 OPEN SEASON
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
4 TILL I MET YOU
11:40 00 4:20 6:40 9:00
5 TXT
1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00
6 FEAST
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10
7 THE PRESTIGE
12:40 3:20 6:10 9:00
8 THE GUARDIAN
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

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1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 OPEN SEASON
4 THE PRESTIGE

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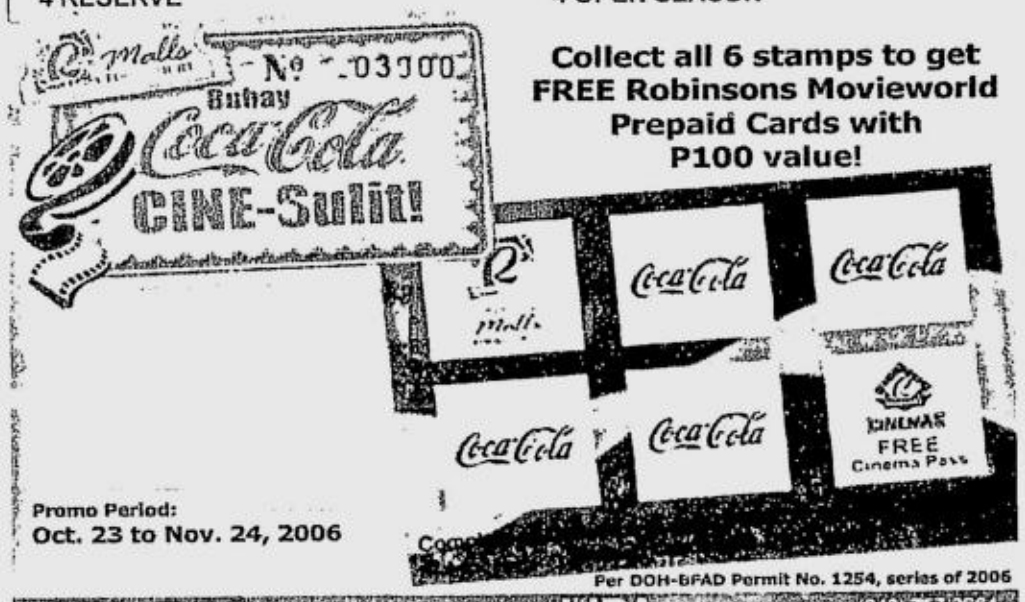
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 THE PRESTIGE
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 OPEN SEASON



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1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
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2 OPEN SEASON
3 TILL I MET YOU
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2 THE PRESTIGE
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 TILL I MET YOU
1 OPEN SEASON
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 MY FIRST WEDDING
5 THE GRUDGE 2
6 THE PRESTIGE

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6 TILL I MET YOU
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 OPEN SEASON
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5 DEAD OR ALIVE

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Paying homage to the departed

From page D6

Mark Anthony Fernandez: Nida Blanca. Because of how she embraced things in life. I am speaking as a fan and not as somebody who knows her.

Mark Herras: Bruce Lee. One and only *talaga siya* when it comes to action films. What a loss! He could have done more films. I grew up watching his movies. It lured me to try my luck in show biz.

MARK HERRAS

Tyron Perez: I look up to Christopher Reeves. When I was younger, I didn't know any other foreign celebrity aside from him. I'm a Superman fan because of him. Although today's Superman is good, nobody can beat Christopher Reeves.

Medwin Marfil (True Faith): Nat King Cole. His music is a fave in our house since I was a kid. His vocal stylings exude a lotta class, heart and soul. During the '50s he had to fight racial prejudice which was prevalent in the entertainment industry back then and struggled to keep his TV show on the air. Despite such adversities, he managed to sell millions of records and inspire people to fight bigotry. An admirable icon indeed!

Nyoy Volante: Babalu and Rene Requiestas. I consider them the funniest in Philippine comedy. Though it doesn't have anything to do with me being a singer, my sense of humor has been influenced by their antics and my jokes based on their dialogue. When I'm feeling down, just remembering how funny they were is enough to cheer me up!

BIANCA GONZALES

Bianca Gonzales: "Sen. Rene Cayetano. Because of the legacy and values he left and now shares through his family, love for friends, love for country and love for our Lord."

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

Andy Taylor leaves Duran Duran

NEW YORK—BRITISH BAND DURAN DURAN SAID guitarist Andy Taylor has left the group ahead of the US leg of a world tour—five years after the chart-topping 1980s band got back together.

A statement on the group's Web site said the relationship with Taylor had become unworkable.

"The four of us have dissolved our partnership and will be continuing as Duran Duran without Andy," said the statement.

Reuters

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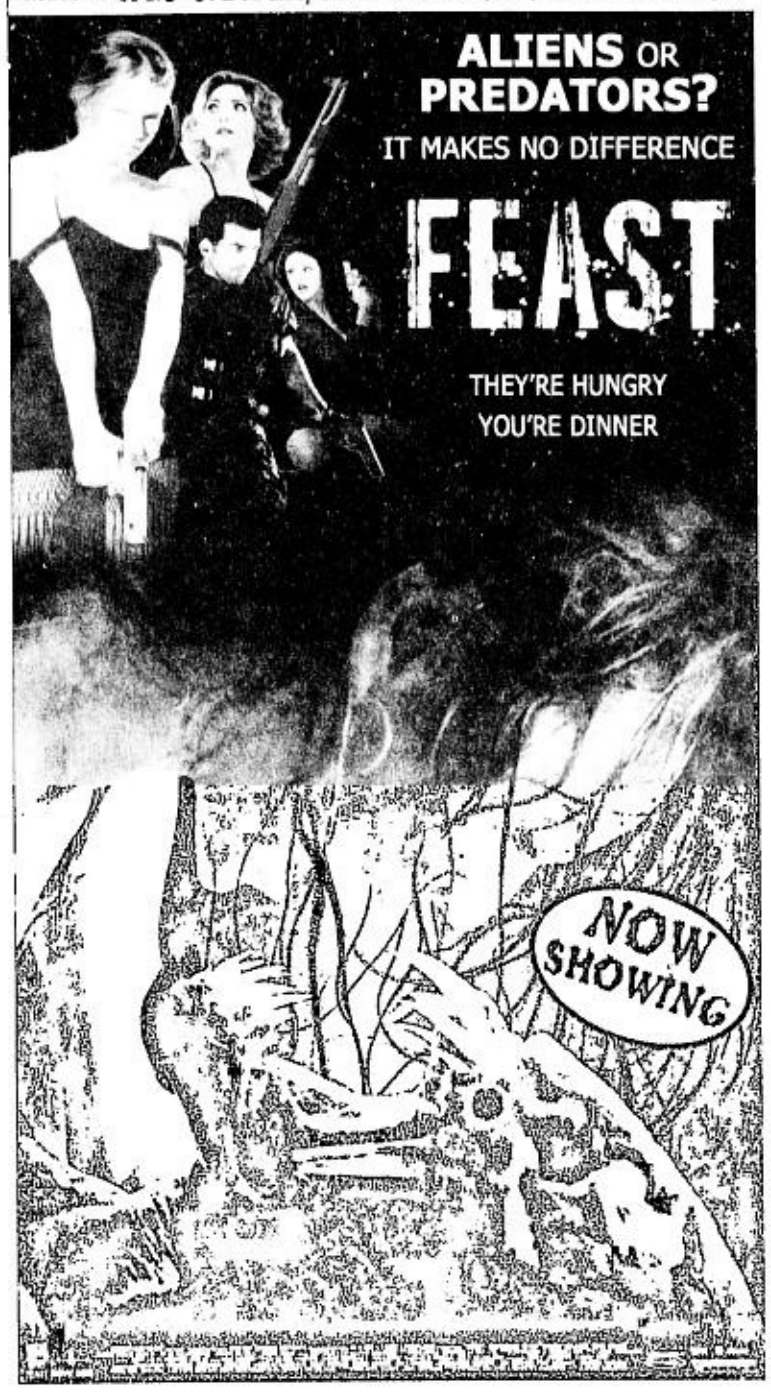

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GRUDGE 2 PG13 1:45,3:50,6:05,8:15	OPEN SEASON G 2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00	THE PRESTIGE R13 2:45,5:25,8:05
WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13 2:35,5:10,7:45,10:20	EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PG13 12:50,3:05,5:20, 7:35,9:50	THE PRESTIGE R13 2:15,4:55,7:35,10:30

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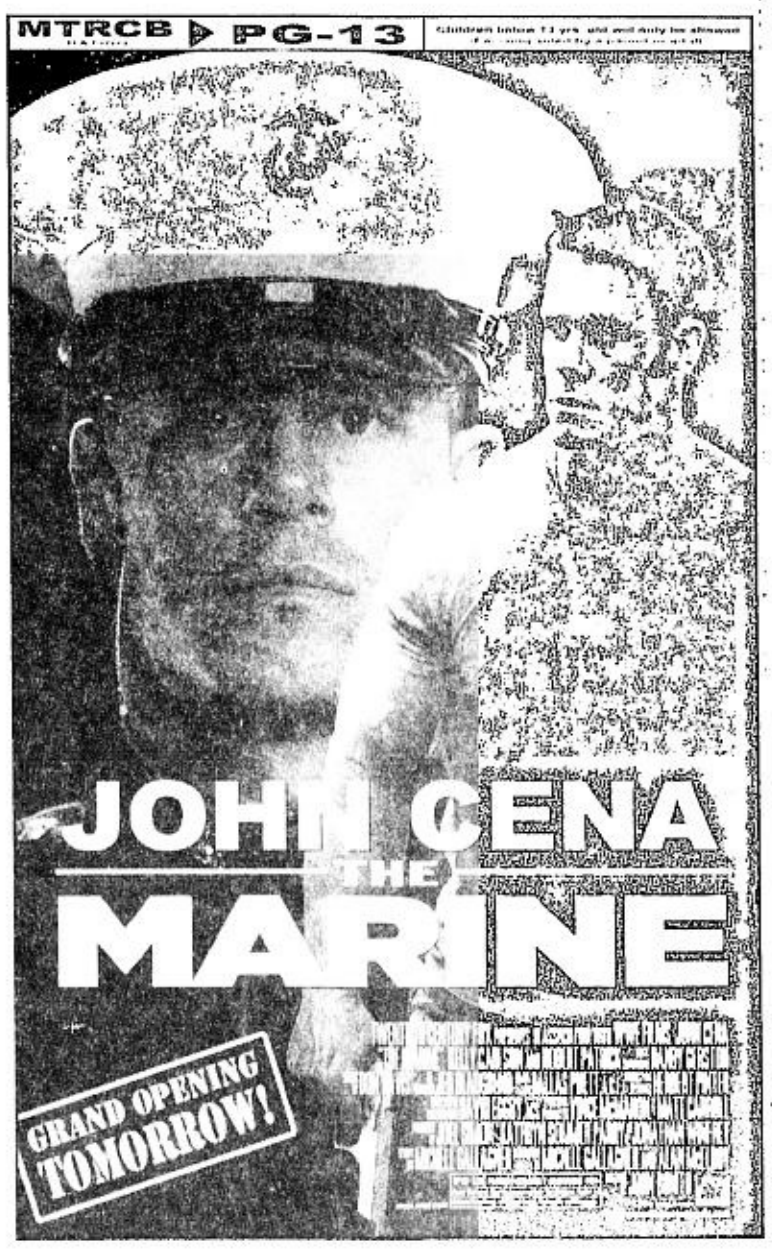
MTRCB PG-13



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G1 (GLORIETTA 1)	1 FEAST	2 THE GRUDGE 2	3 WORLD TRADE CENTER	4 THE PRESTIGE
G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	3 THX CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 WORLD TRADE CENTER	5 OPEN SEASON	6 THE PRESTIGE	7 THE GRUDGE 2
GB1	1 THE GRUDGE 2	2 THE PRESTIGE		
GB3	1 THX THE GRUDGE 2 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE PRESTIGE 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 OPEN SEASON 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE DEPARTED 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)	1 THX THE PRESTIGE GUARANTEED SEATS	2 OPEN SEASON		
	3 THE GRUDGE 2	4 THE DEPARTED	5 WORLD TRADE CENTER	
ACC (AYALA CENTER CEBU)	1 THE PRESTIGE	2 OPEN SEASON	3 THE GRUDGE 2	4 PULSE
M2 (MARKET! MARKET!)	1 THE GRUDGE 2	2 OPEN SEASON		
	3 THE BANQUET	4 WORLD TRADE CENTER	5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	

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Paying homage to the departed

WHETHER IT'S THE GHOSTS OF YOUR PAST or ghost employees haunting you, wouldn't it be better if you spend Halloween paying homage to a dead celebrity (or non-celebrity) who has bewitched you for life? I cornered some stars and asked them exactly that. As *pour moi*, my Mom's incredible life taught me much but her death is teaching me even more. Here's to all the icons and heroes who have gone ahead. May the lessons and memories they left us with keep brewing in our minds as we go through life's and love's treats and tricks.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Rufa Mae Quinto: FPJ 'cause he's my idol not just on-screen but off-screen. Super *siya sa pagtulong, sa* action scenes, *sa pakikisama at sa* charisma. I try to live my life the way he did.

RUFA MAE QUINTO

Gina Alajar: Lino Brocka has the greatest influence on me... in acting, directing, in choosing issues to fight for and *pakikisama sa mga tao sa industriya*. His words are instilled in my mind. I go back to those words when I don't know what to do especially when I'm directing.

Diether Ocampo: FPJ. He's the most kind-hearted and he really reached out to the small ones. Also Ate Luds. I have high respect for her great compassion and genuine service to help the ones in need. They inspire me in the work I do for my K.I.D.S. foundation.

Marvin Agustin: Rico Yan. He made me appreciate and value life more. He could have been our next President. I know he is guiding me more from Up there. Rico's like the brother I never had.

Janice de Belen: Julie Vega's death really had such an impact on me. Our shows were pitted against each other and we had many movies together. To this day, I wonder how things would be if Julie were still around. *Kami pa rin kaya ang magka-kumpitensiya*? When she died, I didn't think of it as losing an archrival but as losing a friend. In a way, our competition shaped my career when I was still starting out in the biz.

Pia Guanio: Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison, Janis Joplin, John Lennon and Kurt Cobain. They may have passed on but their music continues to rock my world.

Toni Gonzaga: FPJ. I was fortunate to be part of his last movie "Pakners." I saw how he is with people. He is treated as the King but he never acted like one. He's the most humble person I met in my whole life. My work with him was brief but its impact is long-lasting. He made me realize how I should treasure what I have and to always be nice to the fans because they are the reason why I'm here.

LORNA TOLENTINO

Lorna Tolentino: Fernando Poe Jr. because I started my career with FPJ Productions and he did so much for the industry. I learned a lot from him. He always told me not to make *pangalumbaba* and to be humble.

Polo Ravales: Tupac Shakur. His charisma is amazing. Even if a lot of bad things happened in his life, so many people still idolize him.

PAYING/ D4

Digital filmmakers challenge critic

From page D1

EMMAN DELA CRUZ ("Sarong Banggi;" chair, IFCP)

Cinema is a very young art; we're only a century old. The films we've seen since the Lumiere brothers (Louis and Auguste Lumiere were pioneer contributors to the birth of film in 1895) until the digital explosion now are but "guesses" as to what this art form can do. Let's stop bickering and enjoy the possibilities.

Much flak has been thrown at digital filmmaking, but very few have written about what has been done so far. It gave Filipinos renewed power to own their images again. True to Pinoy ingenuity, we've created bigger things from so little. Digital has done for filmmaking what piracy has done for awareness: It gave so much freedom for the Third World film viewer and filmmaker. The downside is not the medium, it's closed-mindedness in approaching it.

MIKE SANDEJAS ("Tulad ng Dati")

People dream. Some of us dream of creating movies, like a painter yearning to paint. Digital video creates an opportunity to fulfill those dreams.

The argument should not be film vs digital. Technical is a given. I agree that film is superior. But to dismiss digital features as inferior would deter several filmmakers from continuing to experiment and, thus, halt their growth and evolution. As it is, when many viewers hear the word "digital," they shy away from watching these features.

Given a choice, filmmakers would want to use film stock and pay for everything the way they should be paid but that is just not possible for a lot of us. There are those who prefer digital over film, but that's like choosing Coke over Pepsi or vise-versa. Nothing's wrong with that.

Some countries are capable of still using film despite low budgets because of government support. This is something we are just starting to realize through Cinemalaya, NCCA, CEB and FDCP. But it is still very different from the full support given by South Korea to its film industry. Kodak has been very active locally in promoting the use of film but this is not enough without government involvement.

There are problems outside of the technical in both mediums. As far as film aesthetics is concerned, it's not the car, it's the driver. The medium shouldn't be blamed.

(On big studios taking advantage of "cheaper personnel" from the indie ranks:) That's economics at work— a deeper problem that would take another discussion.

I appreciate Mr. Baumgärtel's opinion; he could be helping an ongoing weeding-out process. Those discouraged by his views will just fall by the wayside.

RICO MARIA ILARDE ("Sa Ilalim ng Cogon," "Shake, Rattle and Roll 2K5," "Ang Babaeng Putik," "Z-Man")

The author makes several valid points regarding the inadequacies of digital video as compared with 35mm film. The main flaw in his argument is that he selects his samples from just a few films, mostly shot on the mini-DV format, when in fact, digital video now encompasses several formats ranging from the aforementioned miniDV to HDV to DVCam, all the way to HD (high-definition video).

Two of last year's Metro Manila Filmfest entries, "Exodus" and "Shake, Rattle and Roll 2K5," were both shot in high-definition video, and later transferred to 35mm film. Artistic merits of the films aside, to my mind—from an aesthetic standpoint—the two samples immediately debunk Mr. Baumgärtel's arguments, because these two films rank among some of the slickest-looking Philippine feature films of the last 10 years. Don't believe me? Then I challenge you to compare the glossiest Filipino feature shot on 35mm that you can find on DVD (during that time frame of 10 years) and then do a shot by shot comparison on your video player. The results will astound you, guaranteed.

Martial artists have a saying: "You will fight the way you train." Basically, what it means is that you need to go all-out in training and try your best to simulate—starting with your mind—the intensity, the ferocity, and the physicality of a real fight. The rational being, that when the real thing happens, body and mind are so attuned to the training instilled, that the martial artist reacts intuitively to the situation. An analogy you could make is that the film camera is a sword, while a digital one would be a wooden staff. The objective would still be one and the same: "Strike hard, strike swift, and do not be struck back in return." A master with a wooden staff would still be far deadlier than a novice with a sword. It's the same with filmmaking. [No matter the medium] a lousy filmmaker will make a bad film, a lazy director will turn out uninspired work, an inept camera person will shoot ugly images.

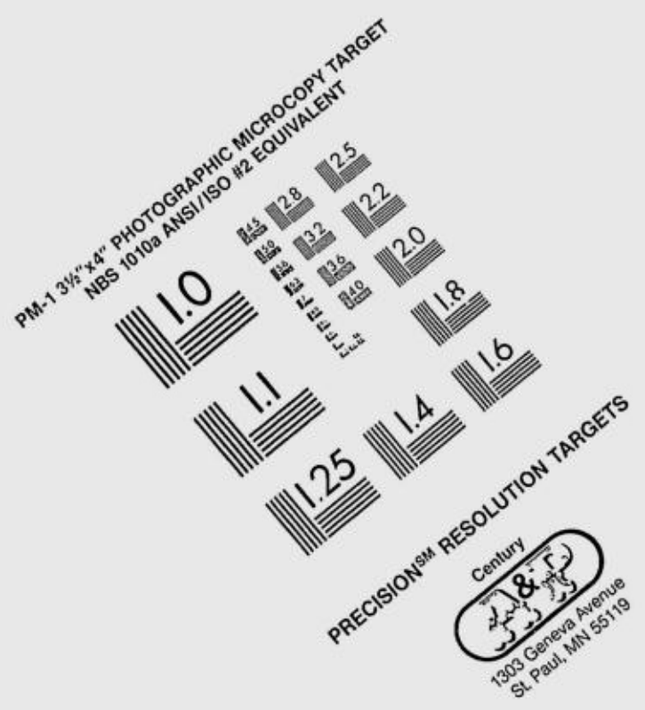
PAOLO VILLALUNA ("Illusyon," organizer, Pelikula't Lipunan and Pink Festival; board member, IFCP)

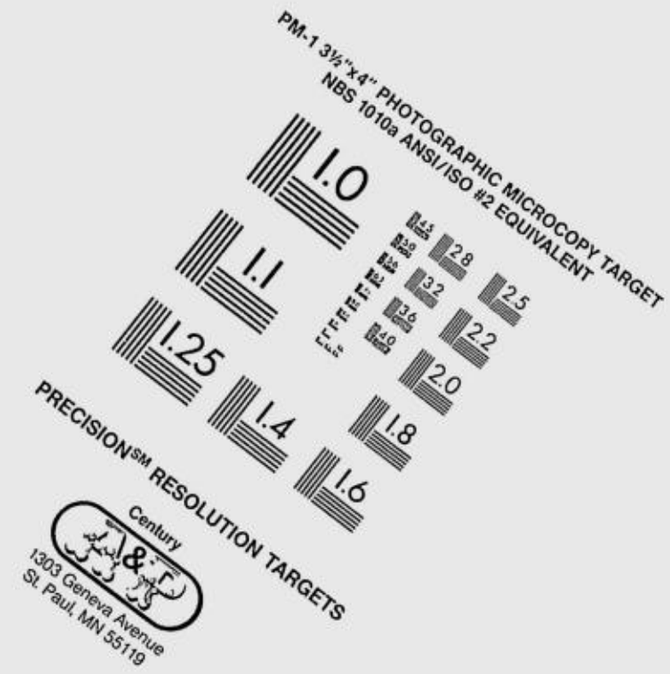
The digital format is not absolute—and like everything in the universe, including the celluloid format, it has a downside. Jon Red is right: Baumgärtel article should have lambasted the triggerman, not the gun.

The digital format in itself is a revolution—just the fact that it has taken away the monopoly of filmmaking from only those who can afford it is a testament to that revolution. That is not to say that all digital films are good, because half of them actually aren't. But I'd rather live in a world where the "digital" option is available; it creates a wider margin for new filmmakers and new ideas, thus developing a healthier cinema for us.

Most important, we should remember that bad and good films are made regardless of format! Baumgärtel has to ponder: Would (Lars Von Trier's) "Dancer in the Dark" be a better film had it been shot in 35mm? No. Would (Paul Haggis') "Crash" be a lesser film had it been shot in mini-DV? No. There are films that are so good, they transcend formats. That should be our discourse: how to make good films, not whether film is better than digital. As the cliche goes: That is moot and academic.

(To be concluded)





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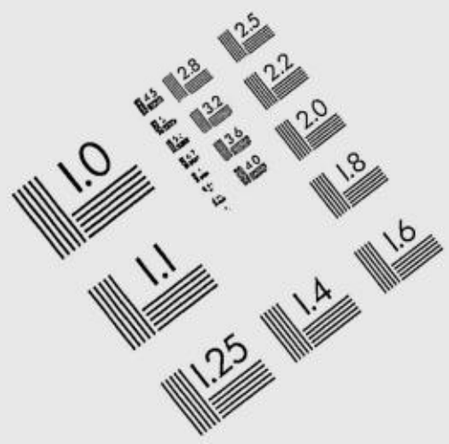

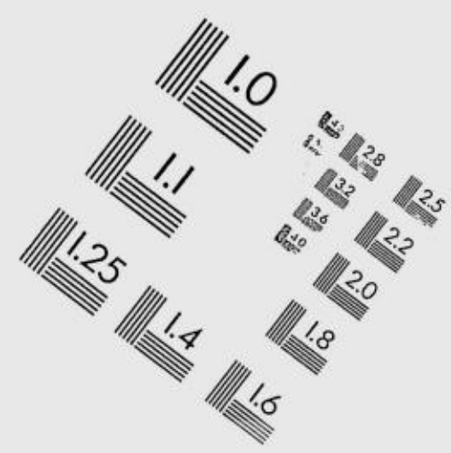

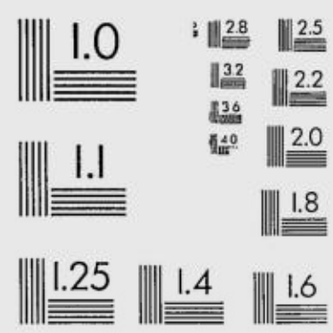

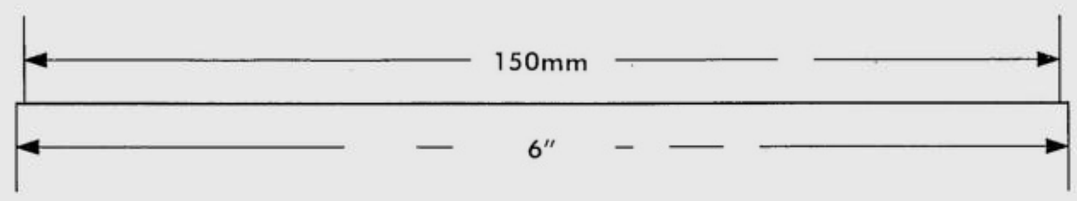

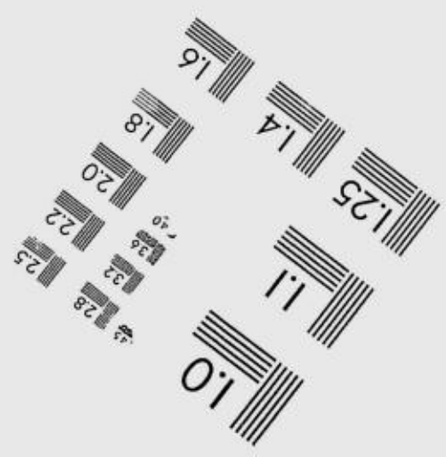

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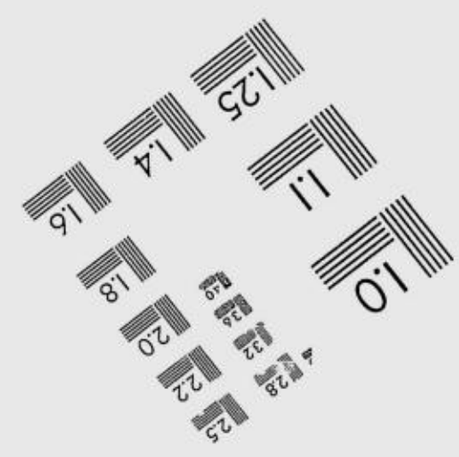

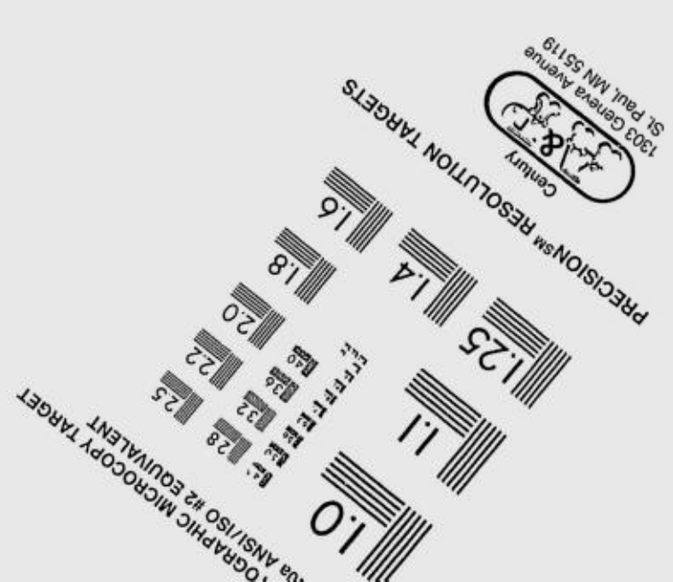

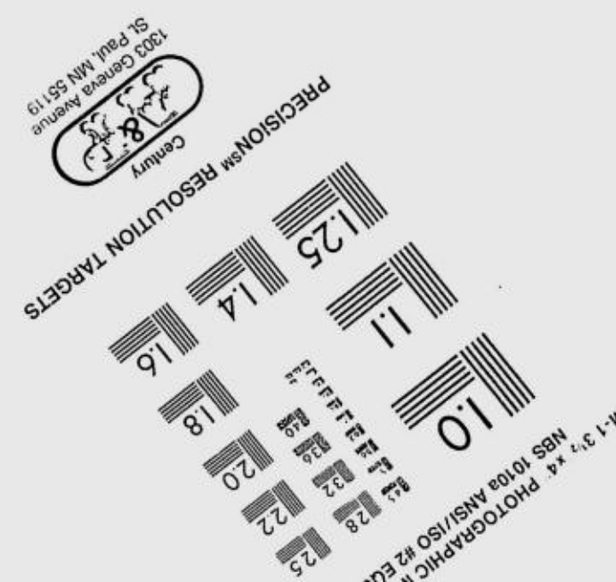

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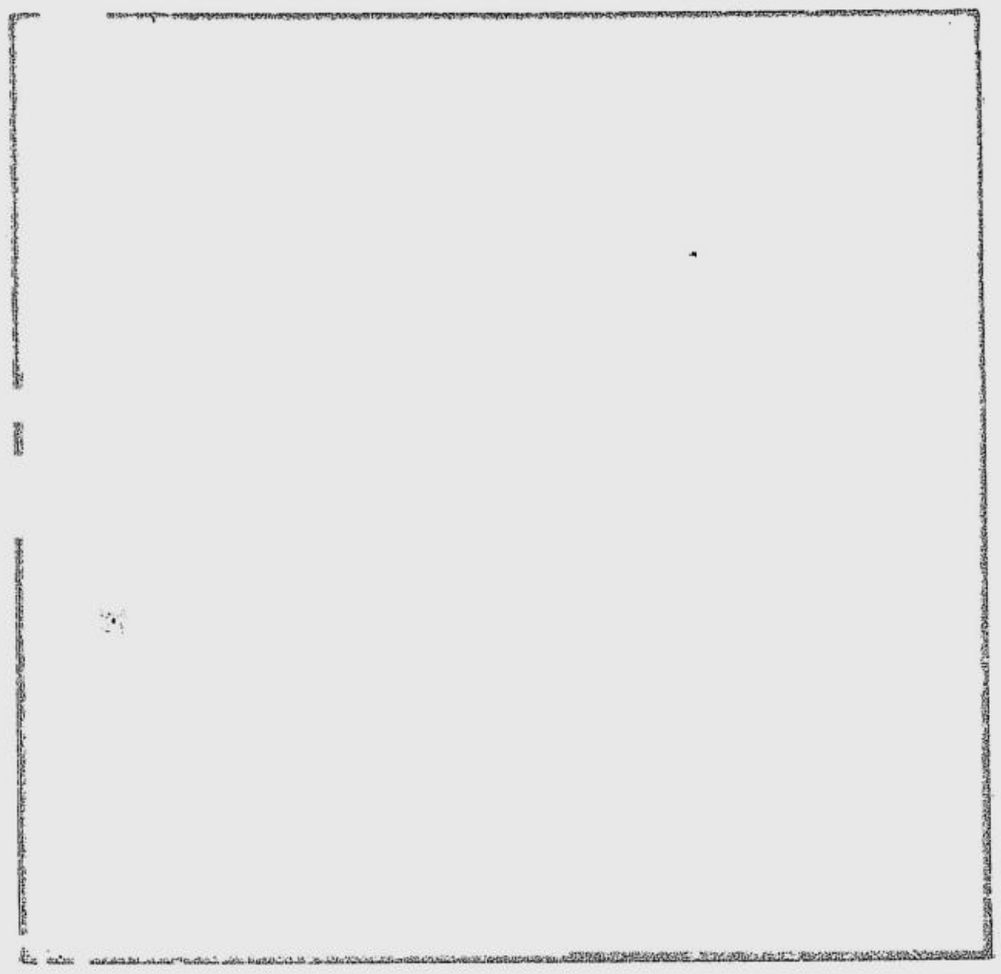
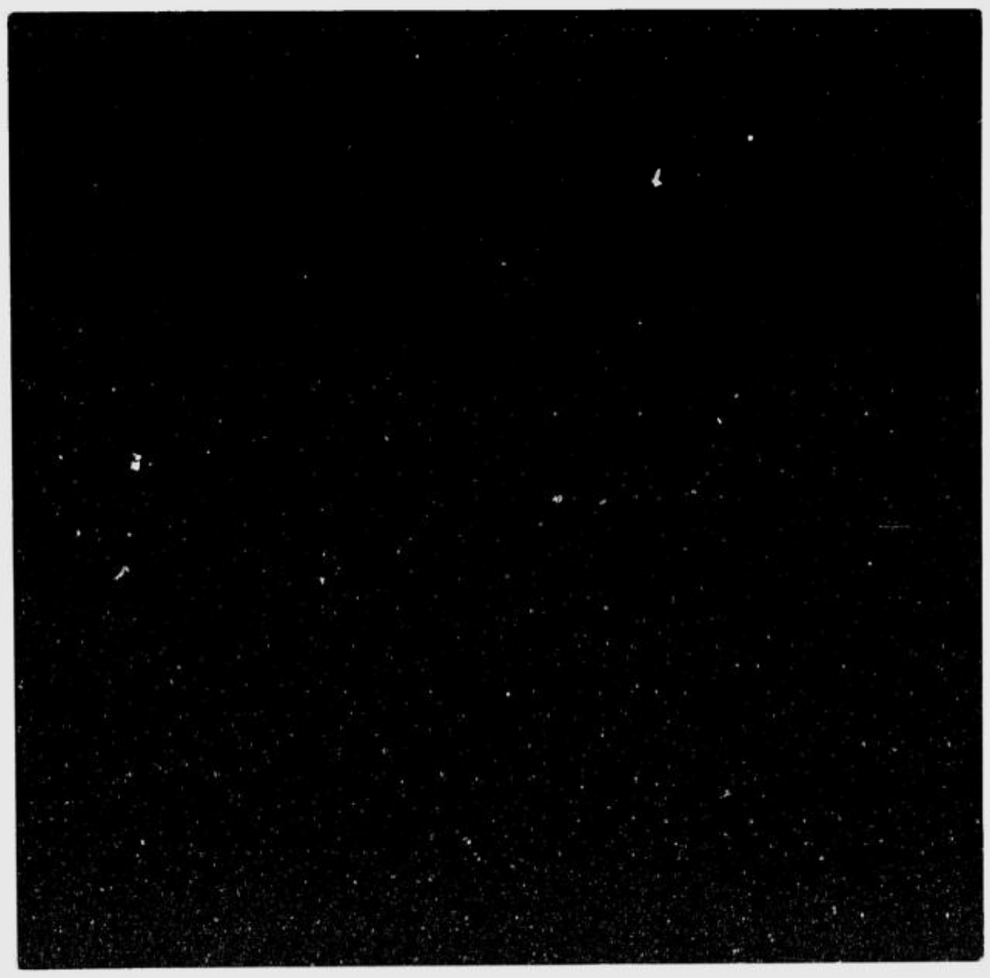
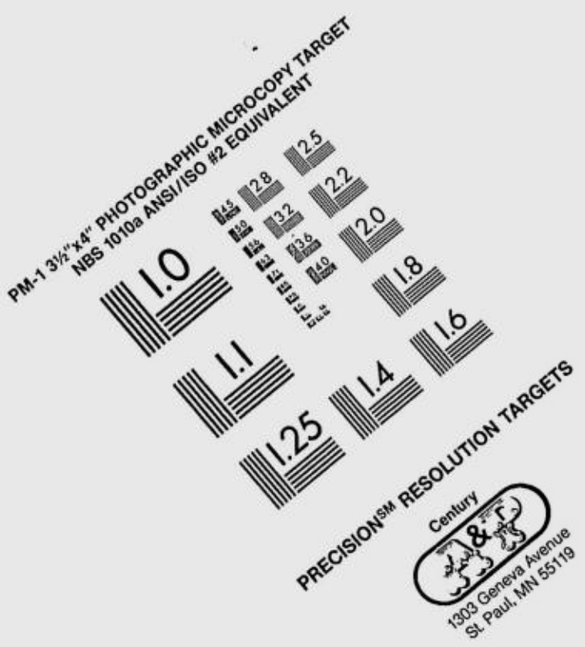






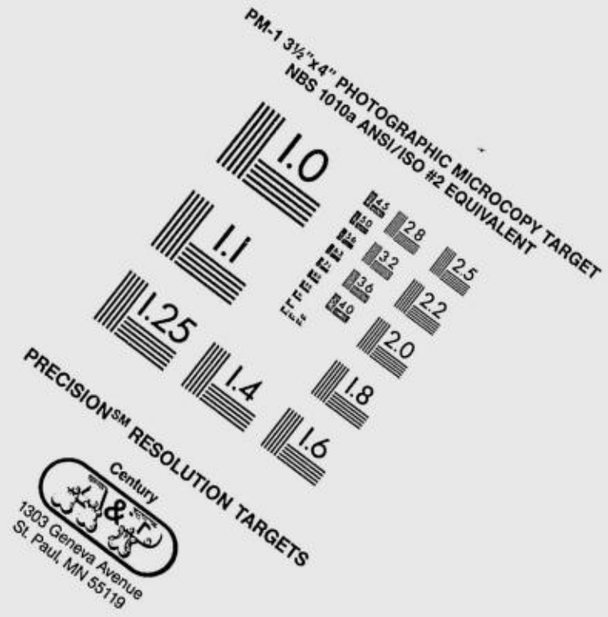
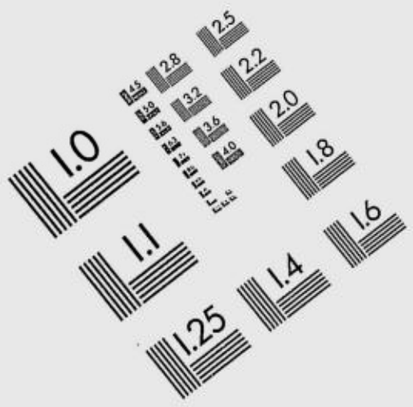
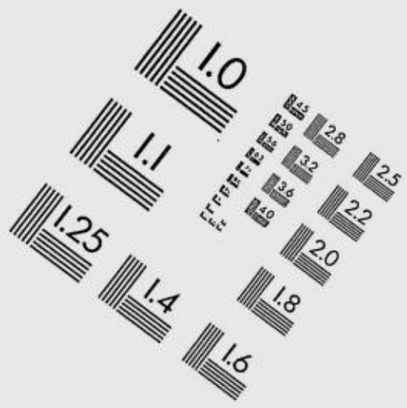
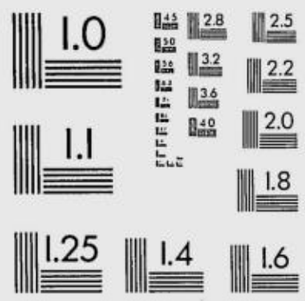


IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)

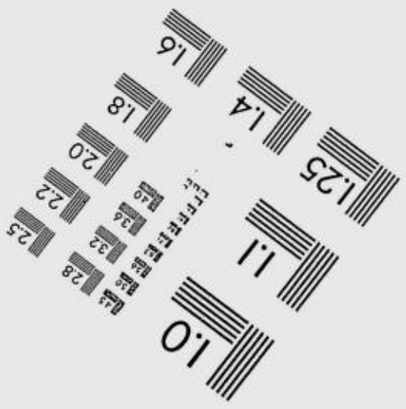






150mm

6″



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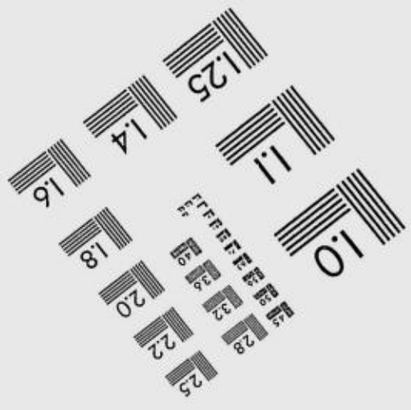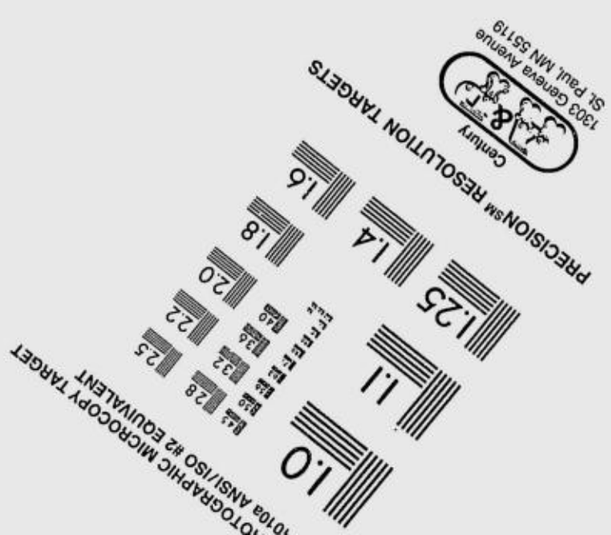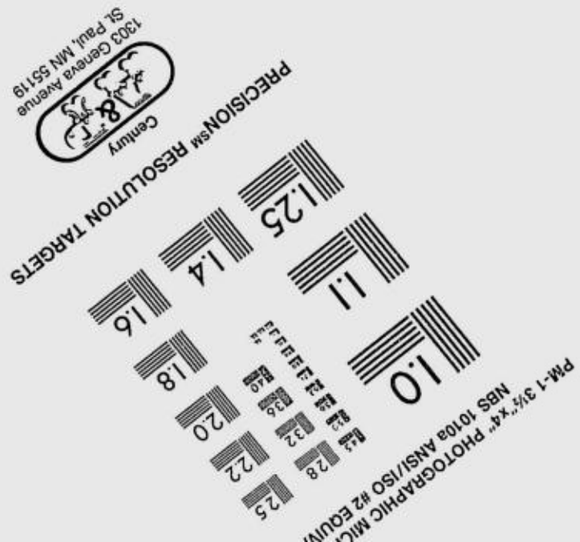
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